

Golden Valley

CityNEWS

City Offers Free Remodeling Advisor Visits

Thinking about making some changes to your home but not sure where to start? Need help prioritizing improvements or evaluating bids? The City of Golden Valley has contracted with the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE), a local non-profit, to conduct free Remodeling Advisor Visits with Golden Valley homeowners.

The Remodeling Advisor Visit is a no-strings-attached program where an unbiased independent professional (not a contractor or a City staff person) visits with you to answer home improvement questions.

Why is my basement wet? Should I replace my windows? Do I really need to do an addition to get another bathroom? These are questions that have been answered by CEE Remodeling Advisor Bob Mello. "I once went into a house and the owners wanted to do an addition for a kitchen remodel," Mello says. "We discussed several options and it turned out they could fit the kitchen they wanted in the space they had, saving them thousands of dollars."

For more information on this program or to schedule your visit, call 612-335-5856.

CEE also offers financing with low interest fixed rates with flexible terms. The Home Energy Program loan provides \$10,000 maximum, no maximum income limit, for energy-related improvements such as windows, doors, insulation, furnaces, water heaters, etc. The MHFA Fix-Up Fund Program loan provides \$35,000 maximum for roofs, siding, windows, kitchen, remodels, etc. Income limits apply. For more information, call 612-335-5884 or to www.mncee.org.

Mark Your Calendar: Golden Valley Days

Friday, May 15, 6–10 pm,
Brookview Park
Saturday, May 16, 9:30 am–10 pm,
City Hall Campus

Celebrate Golden Valley and its creative community spirit at the sixth annual Golden Valley Days Art & Music Festival.

Day one features a community picnic and entertainment for kids, a battle of the bands, and fireworks. The festival picks up Saturday with a parade, art booths and music performances, a classic car show, food vendors, and kids games.

At 7 pm, "High & Mighty" takes the stage for the street dance. Other events may be added; 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.



IN THIS ISSUE

VOLUME 22 NUMBER 2

www.goldenvalleyfund.org

- CITY INCREASES UTILITY FEES|2
- 3|VIEWS OF THE VALLEY CONTEST IS JUST A SHUTTER CLICK AWAY
- SPRUCE UP YOUR LAWN WITH SPRING BRUSH PICK-UP|4
- 5|HOW BIG IS GOLDEN VALLEY'S CARBON FOOTPRINT?
- BROOKVIEW CELEBRATES 40|6
- 7|JOIN THE PARTY, GET CONNECTED, BE INVOLVED
- 8-9|VOLUNTEERS PLANT THE SEEDS OF COMMUNITY GROWTH
- POLICE ANNUAL REPORT BRINGS GOOD NEWS|10
- 11|DON'T LET SEVERE WEATHER CATCH YOU UNPREPARED
- STREET SWEEPING SHEDS SAND, SALT FROM STREETS|12
- 13|BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR, KEEP YOUR YARD TRASH-FREE
- IGNORING TRAFFIC LAWS? CONSIDER THE COSTS|14
- 15|BUILD YOUR PROJECTS WITH UP-TO-CODE MATERIALS



City Launches Improved ListServe

The City of Golden Valley has launched an improved version of GV DirectConnect, its Web site email subscription service. The improved DirectConnect will provide more timely information about City activities, programs, and services. Sign up to get e-mail updates about City meetings, recreation programs, snow emergencies, street construction, crime prevention, Brookview Golf programs, City events, and much more.

To sign up, visit www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us and click on the "Subscribe to e-mail updates" link on the right.



The fully-automated, on-demand e-mail subscription system is powered by GovDelivery, the world's leading provider of government-to-citizen communication solutions.

Questions? Contact Communications Coordinator Cheryl Weiler at 763-593-8004 or cweiler@ci.golden-valley.mn.us.

Get A Passport At GV DMV

The Golden Valley Motor Vehicle Licensing Department in City Hall offers new and renewal passports. Passports are valid for 10 years for people age 16 and older and five years for people age 15 and younger.

Application forms are available at City Hall (7800 Golden Valley Rd) or online at www.travel.state.gov/passport/forms/forms_847.html.

For more information, call the Golden Valley DMV at 763-593-8101.

City Increases Utility Fees

City water and sanitary sewer rates will increase in 2009 to cover increased costs to provide services and maintain and repair the municipal water and sewer system. Last year the City began moving toward consumption-based rates for sanitary sewer discharge, meaning residents will pay based on how much wastewater they put into the system.

Sanitary Sewer Rates

Instead of two flat rates for residential sanitary sewer service, the City now has six flat rates based on consumption. All wastewater is carried through pipes on residential property into the municipal sanitary sewer pipe, which connects to a regional sewer interceptor into the wastewater treatment plant in St Paul. The City's consumption-based sanitary sewer rates are tied to water usage and more closely match the way the MCES bills the City.

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

The April quarterly utility bill rates are based on water consumption used in January, February, and March 2009. The six residential sanitary sewer rates are: \$52 for those that use 5,000 gallons of water less, \$56.10 for 6,000 to 15,000 gallons, \$62 for 16,000 to 19,000, \$65 for 20,000 to 25,000, \$68 for 26,000 to 99,000, and \$72 for those that use 100,000 gallons or more. Commercial sanitary sewer rates will increase from \$3.10 to \$3.25 per 1,000 gallons used.

These rates reflect the increased amount the City pays Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) to treat its wastewater as well as costs to maintain and construct municipal sanitary sewer pipes.

Water Rates

Water rates for both commercial and residential use will increase from \$3.83 to \$4.05 per 1,000 gallons. There is a minimum charge per quarter based on meter size. These rates reflect the increased amount the Golden Valley-Crystal-New Hope Joint Water Commission (JWC) will pay to buy water from the City of Minneapolis. The rates will also cover costs for maintenance, construction, and repair of water lines.

Streetlights

Residential streetlight rates will increase from \$8.25 to \$8.50 per quarter for ornamental lights and from \$5 to \$5.25 per quarter for overhead lights. Commercial streetlight rates increased from \$2.75 to \$2.84 per month for ornamental lights and from \$1.67 to \$1.75 per month for overhead lights. Some commercial lighting districts may be billed differently. This increase pays for one-half of the maintenance for the city-wide street light system that includes Xcel costs.

If you have questions about the utility increases or the consumption-based sanitary sewer rate, contact Finance Director Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010.

Carol's Conservation Tip

"Be your own water leak detective," says Golden Valley Utility Billing Clerk Carol Zerull. "Put some food coloring in the tank of your toilet. Let it sit for a couple of hours. If any of the coloring seeps into your toilet bowl, you have discovered a water leak. Replace the flapper (a \$3-\$5 part) to ensure a tight seal in the tank."



Views of the Valley Contest Is Just A Shutter Click Away

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.

Framing the beauty of Golden Valley with a single shot takes a special photographic talent, a talent you can share and celebrate through the 2009 *Views of the Valley* photo contest. The 17th annual contest aims to promote Golden Valley and civic pride in a fun 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 5, 2009, 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.



2008 Overall Grand Prize: "Friend in the Garden" by Brian Wright

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.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Publication on the City Web site and in *CityNews*, \$25, and a certificate of appreciation.

All photo entries will be displayed at City Hall and on the City Web site. From June 10–24, 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 in early July.



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 5, 2009, 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.

Online Recycling Sources



The following is a list of useful Internet sources about recycling:

Hennepin County's Choose To Reuse

Lists businesses that promote recycling:
www16.co.hennepin.mn.us/ceweb/Result.do

The Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board

Provides a wealth of specific recycling facts and resources:
www.swmcb.org

Recycling Association of Minnesota

Offers a general overview of recycling information for Minnesota:
www.recycleminnesota.org

Recycle City (an EPA resource)

A great place for kids to get educated about recycling:
www.epa.gov/recyclecity/

Planet Protectors Club For Kids

www.epa.gov/epawaste/education/kids/planetprotectors/index.htm

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 30
July 4	Fri, July 3
Labor Day	Sat, Sept 12
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.

Spruce Up Your Lawn With Spring Brush Pick-Up

Finally, spring is here, and that means Golden Valley's annual residential *Spring Brush Pick-Up* is just around the corner. The pick-up, running from May 4 to May 22, gives you the opportunity to place tree limbs and brush at your curb for collection and disposal.

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.

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. 

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 west of Douglas Dr—**week of May 4**

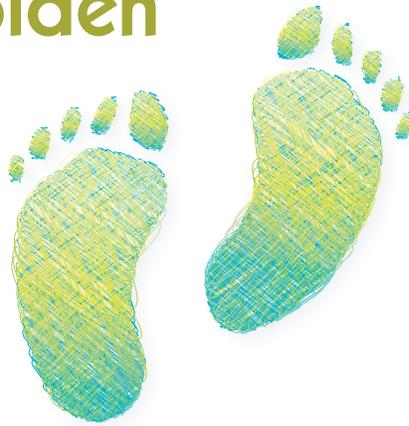
Section 2—Area north of Hwy 55 and east of Douglas Dr—**week of May 11**

Section 3—Area south of Hwy 55—**week of May 18**

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.



How Big Is Golden Valley's Carbon Footprint?



In the most recent step toward reducing its carbon footprint, Golden Valley is working to establish an energy consumption baseline to help measure its progress, sort of like weighing itself before going on a diet, says Al Lundstrom, environmental coordinator.

To help establish that baseline, the City has turned to ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability, an international group of municipalities all working toward the same goal.

Golden Valley will use a software program provided by ICLEI that will help City officials measure energy use. Measuring the baseline is part of an ICLEI campaign model of five steps toward energy reduction: 1) establish a baseline; 2) set a target; 3) develop a local action plan; 4) implement the local action plan; and 5) measure results.

Golden Valley is working to establish an energy consumption baseline to help measure its progress, sort of like weighing itself before going on a diet.

"We need to figure out where we're using energy so we know where to take steps toward conservation," Lundstrom says. "We need a record of it so we can track our progress."

A major component to this process, he says, is measuring the carbon footprint of Golden Valley's residents. While City employees can work to save energy in government buildings, the impact won't be truly significant until residents start working toward the same goal. With nearly 9,000 housing units in the City, energy consumption quickly adds up.

Once the City establishes its baseline, it will launch an educational campaign to teach residents about steps toward conserving energy, and work from there, Lundstrom says.

ESTABLISHING YOUR BASELINE AND SETTING GOALS

But people don't need to wait, he adds. Residents can establish their own baseline and start working toward their own goals right away.

Lundstrom suggests visiting www.carbonfootprint.com and clicking on "Home Calculator." There you can plug in what you spend on utility bills and it will tell you how many tons of CO₂ you use annually. With that as a baseline, you can set your targets.

Don't neglect the little things, Lundstrom says. 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. Wear a sweater rather than turning up the heat. Change your light bulbs to florescent or get motion sensor lights that turn off on their own. Keep your lights off when you're not in the room. About 32 percent of carbon emissions are caused by electricity consumption.

But don't overwhelm yourself. When making that first effort to reduce your carbon footprint, it's OK to take baby steps, Lundstrom says, just as long as you are taking steps.

City To Hear Water Pollution Control Plan

Every year the City of Golden Valley is required to report on how it is managing storm water that comes from overland flow—water that does not originate from a single pipe—to reduce pollution. The process is called the Phase II National Pollution and Discharge Elimination System, and it requires significant planning by the City, including a public meeting with the City Council (this year set for June 16 at 7 pm).

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

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

The June 16 City Council meeting will give the public a chance to share comments on the plan. All written comments should be received no later than 4:30 pm the day of the meeting. Forward comments to: City of Golden Valley, Attn: Al Lundstrom, 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427.

A copy of the plan is available on the City Web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us. For more information, contact Lundstrom at 763-593-8046.



Recreation OPPORTUNITIES

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

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Kids' Club (ages 3–5)—starts April 6

Private Piano Lessons (ages 7+)—starts April 14

Music, Mom/Dad & Me (ages 2–3 with an adult) starts April 14

Still Life Art Form (ages 6–12)—starts April 16

Indoor Nerf Soccer (ages 5–7)—starts April 16

All About Birds (ages 3–6)—starts April 17

Spring Tennis (ages 3–14)—starts May 2

Garden Art (ages 3–6)—starts May 15

All About Gardens (ages 3–6 with an adult)—starts May 21

ADULT PROGRAMS

Yoga & Pilates—starts April 6

Line Dancing—starts April 8

Tuning Forks—April 20

No-Stress Basic Chess—starts April 22

Emotional Freedom Technique—April 27

Adult Evening Tennis—starts May 4

Nutrition: A Way of Life—May 11

Adult Tennis Leagues—starts June 8

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

Brookview Celebrates 40

Brookview Golf Course celebrates its 40th anniversary as a City-run operation this year, and to mark the occasion it's kicking off the 2009 season with a week of special events.

"We're very excited," says Ben Disch, golf operations manager. "Brookview Golf Course has such a rich history and has been an important part of this community for so long, we figured it deserves more than just one day of celebration."

The celebrations will take place from Monday, May 11 to Friday, May 15, with each day focusing on a different theme (see box below).

Brookview was built in the 1920s and operated as a private country club until 1947. New owners named it Brookview Golf Club and kept it as a private 18-hole regulation course, complete with a swimming pool, a clubhouse with a full dining room, a bar room, a pro shop, and locker rooms. The City bought it in 1967 and began official operations at Brookview Golf Course in 1969. The Par 3 course was added in 1977.

While the City of Golden Valley owns Brookview, the course operates as an enterprise fund, which means it's funded 100 percent by golfer fees.



40th Anniversary Kick-Off Week

Senior Day—Mon, May 11

Anyone over age 62 will receive a special rate all day: \$23 for 18 holes and \$14 for nine holes, with additional discounts on carts.

Patron Day—Tues, May 12

To celebrate people who purchase a patron card, patrons will be able to play 18 holes for the price of nine holes.

Driving Range Day—Wed, May 13

Free lessons from 11 am–4 pm, plus an outdoor grill offering burgers and hotdogs for purchase. Large buckets of balls will be sold all day for \$4. There will also be free equipment demos from 4–8 pm.

\$40 Day—Thurs, May 14

Anyone can play 18 holes and rent half a cart for \$40.

18-hole Golf Tournament—Fri, May 15

The tournament will consist of a shotgun start at noon, scramble format, with no handicaps required. Dinner and awards will follow. Cost per four players is \$240 (\$60 per person) and includes green fee, cart, meal, and prizes. After the tournament, head to Brookview Park to kick off the Golden Valley Days celebration. Download the registration form at www.brookviewgolf.com.

Today Brookview Golf Course offers an 18-Hole Regulation Course and a 9-Hole Par 3, a driving range and teaching area, and a golf shop and grill. Brookview offers a variety of weekly golf leagues for golfers of all ages on both the Regulation and Par 3 Courses. For those who want to learn golf or improve their game, Brookview also offers an array of group and private lessons and clinics for all ages. And groups of all sizes are welcome at Brookview for formal or casual tournaments on either course.

Last summer, Brookview Golf Course was named one of the "Best Places to Play" by the readers of *Golf Digest*. The course received a four-star rating, which is listed as "outstanding—plan your next vacation around it."

For more information, visit Brookview's Web site at www.brookviewgolf.com.



**Celebrate four decades of public golf at
Golden Valley's Brookview Golf Course**

Join The PARTY, Get Connected, Be Involved

From planting lilacs to staffing the food shelf to joining organizations like the Historical Society or Mom's Club, Golden Valley has an array of available volunteer options. The Envision Connection Project is throwing a party April 16 for anyone who wants learn more about them and how to get involved in the community (see box at right).

At the party, you'll hear first-hand from those who are already involved. Learn how you can help put on the events that help define our community, like the Golden Valley Days Art and Music Festival, Ice Cream Social, and Run The Valley (see the story on pages 8–9 for more examples).

Or if volunteering isn't your thing, come out to connect with others who might share your recreational interests, such as bridge, biking, quilting, or nature photography, then form your own group. This party and the Connection Project in general are all about fostering neighborly relations.

Either way, the party offers a great chance to meet people, learn what they're doing in the community, and figure out how you might fit in. It will also serve as a reunion for anyone involved in *Envision Golden Valley*.

Five years ago, the City of Golden Valley set out to gather ideas and incite involvement from hundreds of residents looking to better their community. *Envision Golden Valley* asked citizens to contemplate the meaning of community and brainstorm ways to give theirs the brightest future possible.

The Connection Project, a group established by the City Council at the end of that process, has worked since then to connect people to organizations and initiatives that further the vision for the City and to build on the original ideas generated in 2004.

For more information, call Jeanne Andre (763-593-8014) daytime or Connection Project Board Member Helene Johnson (763-546-1833) evenings.

COMMUNITY-BUILDING PARTY

Thursday, April 16, 7 pm

at the Perpich Center for Arts Education (main entrance and follow the signs)



Announcing The Visi Awards

Do you know someone who has a vision for making Golden Valley a better place and who is making that vision a reality? Or someone who is making a difference in our city's quality of life? If so, nominate that person for a Golden Valley Envision Award.

The Connection Project Board of Directors will review nominations quarterly and present a GOLDEN VISI to groups and individuals. Winners will be recognized at Golden Valley City Council meetings and in City publications.

Nominations may come from individuals who live outside the city, but nominees must either live, work, or play in Golden Valley and must have initiated an enterprise that benefits the community. VISI nomination forms and complete information about the nomination process and are available at City Hall and online at www.ci.golden-valley-mn.us.



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. April 14 and May 12 at 9, 10, and 11 am. Free. Call for appointment.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING

- 4-Hour Refresher Course—April 9 and May 14, 9 am–1 pm, \$17
- 4-Hour Refresher Course—May 19, 6–10 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.

MONEY MATTERS

- April 16: "Aging and the Law"
- May 21: "Retirement Planning in Turbulent Times"

Both 10–11 am.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

April 22 and May 27, 11–11:30 am.

COFFEE TALK

- April 22: "It's More Than Just Books"
- May 27: "Legacy Letters"

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

LIVING WISE AND WELL

June 4, 1 pm: "What You Need to Know When Looking for Short-Term Care and Rehab," 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

Volunteers Plant The Seeds Of Community Growth

A community is only as good as its people. Without residents who sacrifice their time and talents toward bettering their world for themselves and everyone else, the City can only go so far—"it's more than the sum of a physical environment," says Jeanne Andre, assistant city manager. A sense of safety, good architecture, and beautiful homes, parks, and natural spaces set the stage for great living, but it's

what people do in these spaces that leads to the quality of life we have come to enjoy and rely on.

The City of Golden Valley relies heavily on volunteers to foster and establish community connections. These pages highlight four volunteer-run organizations that work directly or partner with the City to help enhance everyone's quality of life.

Golden Valley Human Services Foundation

The Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF) builds community both through events that bring folks together and by raising funds that support human service needs in the community.

Working together also builds connections among the 11 members.

Every year, the GVHSF coordinates the *Run the Valley* 5K and 10K race and 5K walk in April, the *Golden Valley Golf Classic* in September, and the *Taste of Golden Valley* in November. Money raised at these events is combined with charitable gambling proceeds and contributions from the community, and the funds are allocated to human service groups that meet community needs. Since its inception, the GVHSF has allocated \$1,016,500 to organizations that serve Golden Valley residents who need help.

Elissa Heilicher, a former restaurant manager and a long-time volunteer with the group, is in charge of getting food sponsors for the events.

"I have the connections," she says. "They're used to getting my phone calls."

Heilicher says she volunteers because she wanted to give back to the community but didn't want to get involved politically. So she joined the GVHSF and put her fundraising talents to use.

Many other talents are needed to sponsor these events each year, be it publicity, running a silent auction, selling tickets, or showing up on the day of the event to make sure everything runs smoothly.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact Jeanne Fackler at 763-512-2340.

Golden Valley Historical Society

Knowledge about our history gives us a richer perspective of modern life. It opens our eyes to our origins and brings us insight into the progress and struggles of our ancestors and our community. Simply put, it helps preserve our identity. And preservation is key for the Golden Valley Historical Society, says Don Anderson, GVHS secretary/treasurer.

It was the drive to preserve Golden Valley's heritage that inspired a group of about 90 people to create a historical society 33 years ago. Today the group has about 250 members. They are working to renovate the Golden Valley Historical Society building at 6731 Golden Valley Road into a detailed and thorough museum full of Golden Valley artifacts. They are also working to identify and document all Golden Valley homes 100 years old or older, as well as other historic landmarks.

"We've found 12 homes so far," says Betty Crews, who's been a GVHS member for 30 years and is currently the preservation chair. "We're going to keep our eyes out for more."

As for the church renovation, Crews says it's a massive project that requires "a lot of time, money, talent, and volunteerism."

Help is needed to maintain the building and the archives collections as well as for planning programs for the public.

For information regarding membership with the Historical Society, call Don Anderson at 763-588-8578 or email him at maryanddon3030@aol.com.



Bridge Builders & Envision Connection Project

Envision Golden Valley, the City's visioning exercise, asked citizens to contemplate the meaning of community and come together with ideas and hopes for the future of Golden Valley. Several community projects stemmed from those meetings, including an ongoing volunteer organization called Bridge Builders.

Bridge Builders is a way for individuals or groups to connect with others in the community who share similar interests.

Examples include mobilizing a neighborhood to engage in community works or focusing on biking, gardening, music, or other personal interests. *Envision Golden Valley* demonstrated that there are a multitude of talented and active community members who want to engage, and this is a way to tap into that energy to further the community vision.

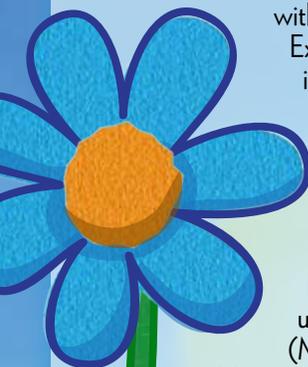
For example, last year Golden Valley residents teamed up with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to plant lilacs and other vegetation along Hwy 55 between Winnetka Ave and General Mills Blvd.

Approximately 80 volunteers joined the planting party, which was the brainchild of Bridge Builder Dwight Townes. The success of this endeavor inspired him to plan for a second annual planting this fall.

Others were also inspired by the lilac planting project and are promoting initiatives to maintain the plantings, add daffodils and perennials to the highway plantings, and develop a community response to buckthorn removal.

Yet another Bridge Builder initiative is promoting the need for a dog park in Golden Valley.

To learn more about Bridge Builders, call Jeanne Andre (763-593-8014) daytime or Connection Project Board Member Helene Johnson (763-546-1833) evenings.



Community Events Fund

The Golden Valley Community Events Fund looks to identify ways to link people, groups, and resources through community events and common interests.

May's Golden Valley Days Art & Music Festival, now in its sixth year, is made possible through the efforts of this group's members.

"It started with just five of us," says Anna Silverman, who's in charge of coordinating artistic talent for the festival. "It takes nearly a year of planning, and we do all of our own fundraising, too, which, in this economy, is not easy." In order to find the artistic talent the festival needs, Silverman regularly attends other art festivals all year round, while other volunteers in the group work on coordinating music, food, community booths, and activities for kids. It all comes together at Golden Valley Days, which will be May 15 and 16 this year. And there are lots of ways for volunteers to help.

"We're always looking for new ideas and fresh faces," she says. "Being a part of this provides a sense of fulfillment, and a sense of fun."

For information on how to volunteer, call Freddie Weisberg at 763-545-8960.



Community Engagement Covers A Lot Of Ground

All over the country, people are looking for ways to connect with neighbors and others who share their interests, and Golden Valley is on the cusp of the trend. During *Envision Golden Valley*, citizens identified community engagement as one of six key categories for their future. It turns out that community engagement can cover a lot of ground. Besides the four groups already highlighted, the following are other examples of people getting involved in their community:

- Local schools use volunteers to help bring individualized learning to students.
- Civic organizations, such as the Federated Women's Club, take on community projects.
- Institutions in the community, such as the Courage Center and PRISM, ask volunteers to help accomplish their mission.
- More than 160 Golden Valley Neighborhood Watch Groups help the police and neighbors look out for the well-being of other residents.
- Many neighborhood associations have fun and further neighborhood goals by getting together.
- The City of Golden Valley works with other communities and jurisdictions for the good of all.

See pages 1, 7, 10, 11, 14, and 16 for other examples of community partnerships and volunteerism. 

Buck Up For THE Bike Rodeo

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

Wednesday, May 6
6-8 pm
New Hope City Hall
4401 Xylon Ave N

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.



Police Annual Report Brings Good News

The Golden Valley Police Department's full annual report will be released in late spring, but some statistics are already available, and they bring good news.

March 2007 to March 2008 saw a 10 percent drop in violent crimes from the previous year and a 3 percent drop in less serious crimes. While the City has experienced drops in crime rates over the last several years, this is a bigger drop than normal, says Chief Stacy Altonen.

Calls for service—the Department received 17,125 in 2008—were down 4 percent, and overall arrests were up 22 percent, a lot of those being traffic arrests. The increase in arrests doesn't mean there was more crime, Altonen says. There's no scientific explanation for it, but it could indicate that the Department's approach to crime fighting has recently gotten more effective.

The top four reasons people called 911 in 2008 were: 1) alarm sounding, 2) medical needs, 3) reporting something suspicious, 4) motorist assist issues. Response times to calls were about the same as last year: four minutes for the most serious calls, and about seven to eight minutes for all other calls.

Goals Achieved In 2008

In 2008 the Police Department achieved the following goals:

- increased the number of public education and crime prevention classes
- implemented use-of-force reporting system
- completed transition to and training on new rifles
- installed video cameras in all squad cars
- reviewed hiring process and identified efficiencies and streamlining opportunities
- incorporated strategic directed patrol shifts to make community connections, reduce crime, and develop patrol personnel
- installed audio/video equipment in investigative interview areas and training room

2009 Goals

The Police Department's goals for 2009 include:

- increase level of traffic enforcement, including driver contacts, citations, details, accident enforcement
- bring property room up to date with purging and intake, and implement audit recommendations
- reorganize the archive file room
- institute mobile technology for investigations
- revise the policy manual
- fund the bike patrol and community outreach in City parks
- exhaust leads on cold homicide cases
- increase foot patrol

Watch for the complete Police Department Annual Report on the City Web site later this spring.



ONE 2008 goal was to incorporate strategic directed patrol shifts to make community connections. In June, police officers held a pizza party for area kids.

Violent Crimes
↓ 10%

Less Serious Crimes
↓ 3%

Calls For Service
↓ 4%

Overall Arrests
↑ 22%

Don't Let Severe Weather Catch You Unprepared

Minnesotans are about to enter the highest risk time of year for severe weather, so they should know exactly what to do when they hear the warning sirens, says Stephen Baker, Golden Valley fire education specialist.

"If you're outside and you hear the sirens, seek shelter immediately."

Even if it looks nice outside, Baker adds, severe weather can hit in a matter of seconds, and it will.

"You see people out at a softball game, they hear the sirens and don't go anywhere," he says. "But those sirens go off for a reason. If you hear it, severe weather is close."

Just don't run under the metal bleachers or a tree, Baker says. Lightning kills more people in Minnesota than any other summer-weather threat. Get inside a structure. In the worst-case scenario, get under a picnic table. If a tornado is coming and you're stuck in the open, find the lowest place close to you, like a ditch, and lay in it.

But the sooner you react to the sirens, the better off you're going to be, Baker says. In fact, don't wait until you hear sirens before you try to find a safe place. Make a habit of identifying safe places near you that you and your family could meet just in case severe weather hits. Even at home, identify a well-protected safe place inside your house, away from windows, that everyone in your family knows about.

Fire Chief Mark Kuhnly also suggests preparing a disaster supply kit with enough food and water to feed your family for three days. The supplies should include easily prepared, easily preserved food products, and three gallons of water for each member of your family, minimum. Replace the food and water every six months. It's also a good idea to stock a battery powered radio, flashlights, disposable plates and utensils, basic hygiene supplies, changes of clothes, identification, and necessary medications.

Questions? Contact Fire Chief Mark Kuhnly at 763-593-8080. 

Statewide Tornado Drill Day

Thursday, April 23
1:45 pm :: 6:55 pm

Hennepin County will participate in the statewide Tornado Drill Day Thursday, April 23. The first drill will be at 1:45 pm to allow schools, businesses, and other organizations to practice their emergency plans. The second drill will be at 6:55 pm to allow families and second-shift workers to practice their plans.

If You Get Involved, You Will Make An Impact

Tony O'Donahue, a Golden Valley firefighter, was recently playing the hangman letter game with a group of kids during an after school reading program at the Northwest YMCA. When it was O'Donahue's turn to pick the letters, the kids came up with what the answer would be. The answer they picked was: "Fireman Tony is the best."

It was that moment, O'Donahue says, where he realized he was making an impact.

"It's hard to know if you're getting through to them," he says. "So it shocked me, the impact you can make, and so easily."

The Reading Incentive Program, sponsored by the Golden Valley Fire Department and run by local teachers with the help of firefighters, is something O'Donahue, 48, got involved with after he left his job as a business consultant last year. When he stopped working, he says, he wanted to get involved in his community. So he joined the Fire Department, signed up to take part in the reading program, volunteered with the Humane Society getting dogs ready to be adopted, and is looking forward to helping with Safety Camp this summer. And it feels great, he says.

"It's amazingly rewarding," O'Donahue says. "It's very worthwhile."

He recommends that if you're thinking about getting involved in the community, whether it's by joining the Golden Valley Fire Department or walking dogs for the Humane Society, you shouldn't hesitate. Because, he says, it's fulfilling, and you will make an impact.

See pages 7, 8, and 9 for other ways to get involved with local volunteer projects. For information on how to become a firefighter, visit goldenvalleyfire.com. 



TONY O'DONAHUE

**Wife.
Runner.
Firefighter.**



Jenny
New Recruit, 1998

goldenvalleyfire.com

City Outlines Requirements For Lawn Maintenance

Golden Valley's lawn maintenance ordinance bans noxious weeds and requires turf lawns to be maintained at eight inches or less. Last summer Golden Valley saw more than 60 lawn ordinance violations.

If a property is found to be in violation of the ordinance (10.51), the City mails a letter to the property owner. The property owner then has 10 days to comply before the City mows the vegetation at the property owner's expense. This occurred nearly 20 times last summer.

If the City has to mail a second violation notice to a property owner, the notice will include a general warning that the City can abate future violations without providing specific notices. That means if a property has had two or more violation notices issued within the prior 12-month period, the City will not mail further notices before mowing 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 about this permit or the lawn maintenance ordinance, 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 Sheds Sand, Salt From Streets

When spring cleaning this year, you may be tempted to rake all the muddy gunk from your yard into the street for the sweepers to worry about. But the sweepers aren't there to pick up your mess. They're there to clean away salt and sand.

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 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 and area lakes 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. ~



Clean streets help keep area waterways clean.



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 II leads off the rotation, followed by Sections I, IV, and III.

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

Be A Good Neighbor, Keep Your Yard Trash-Free

It has been two years since the Golden Valley City Council passed the Residential Property Maintenance Code, and with the first round of city-wide housing inspections completed, Inspector Josh Kunde says the most common violation has been the accumulation of trash, construction debris, and yard waste on people's property.

In 2008, City inspectors noted more than 150 litter and debris violations, including overflowing garbage violations, yard waste violations, and container storage. And those are just the cases where people refused to remedy the problem after being talked to about it, Kunde says. The issue is actually more wide-spread than 150 violations indicate.

"It's an eyesore," Kunde says. "But it's so easy to avoid."

Overall, Golden Valley homes look pretty good, he adds. If people could keep junk off their yards, didn't overstuff their trash cans, and properly disposed of branches, leaves, and yard waste, neighborhoods would look even better, and neighbors would be happier.

So if you have an old couch you want to get rid of, call to see if your garbage hauler will take it for a small fee. Most of them will, Kunde says. Don't just leave furniture on the corner. If you just finished a remodeling project, look in the Yellow Pages for a garbage disposal business and rent a dumpster for a day. Avoid letting construction material pile up. Not only is that an eyesore, and illegal, but it's also dangerous. The same goes for old auto parts, old bicycles, and gas and oil cans.

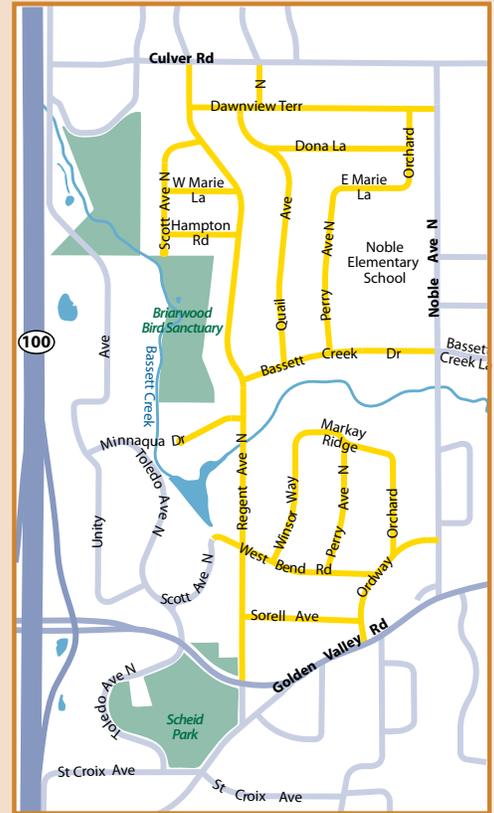
"I'm sure they leave these things out with the best intentions of picking them up, but then they never get around to it," Kunde says. "And that leads to angry neighbors and complaints, which leads to write-ups and fines." Fines and fees can total more than \$1,350.

As for old vehicles left out in the driveway, they need to have updated license plates, tabs, and insurance, and they need to be functional, or they're considered junk vehicles and can't be sitting out.

Keeping trash and junk vehicles out of your yard is just basic courtesy and common sense. "Remember, if you can see it, so can everyone else, including inspectors," Kunde says.

In the end, though, Kunde believes Golden Valley homeowners are pretty responsible about this. "People in this city keep up their houses very well," he says. "Compared to the rest of the metro area, Golden Valley is above average."

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



2009 PMP Kicks Off In May

Golden Valley's Pavement Management Program, or PMP, reinforces the City's commitment to a high level of infrastructure maintenance and safety. Each year the City reconstructs and rehabilitates several miles of City streets and repairs or replaces water, sewer, and storm sewer pipes where needed.

For the 2009 PMP, the City will reconstruct four miles of local streets in in northeastern Golden Valley (see map above), including all streets south of Culver Rd, north of Golden Valley Rd, and west of Noble Ave, with the exception of the streets west of Bassett Creek that have already been reconstructed to City standards. The project will also complete the sidewalk along Regent Ave as well as construct three storm water facilities at Regent Ave and West Bend Rd and at Scott Ave and Hampton Rd. Work is scheduled to start in May.

Residents in PMP project areas receive regular construction updates from the City. This year those updates will be offered electronically via GV DirectConnect, the City's email subscription service. To subscribe, go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us.




www.steptoit.org

STEP-TO-IT CHALLENGE

It's almost time to make a comeback. After coming in third place in last year's first Step-To-It multi-city walking challenge, Golden Valley will get another chance to nab the crown.

Step-To-It will be sponsored this year by the Minnesota Twins. After hearing about the program last year, the Twins contacted Hennepin County to ask if they could get involved. The Twins organization will give out free pedometers to the first 100 registered participants per city. And people can sign up at Golden Valley Days (see sidebar on page 1) to enter a drawing to win four tickets to a Twins game. The top 10 people with the most steps will be honored at a Twins game and meet all members of the team.

As of now, 12 communities (Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Golden Valley, Hopkins, Maple Grove, Minnetonka, New Hope, Osseo, Plymouth, Robbinsdale, and St Louis Park) will compete in the 2009 challenge, scheduled for May 18 through June 14. This will be four weeks of fun, healthy competition to see which Hennepin County community walks the most by measuring the most average steps per participant and the most total steps walked.

Participants use pedometers or walking charts to note the number of steps taken over a four-week period, then record that number on the Step To It Web site (www.steptoit.org). Other activities, such as biking, skateboarding, basketball, Tai Chi, or even just lawn mowing, will also count toward overall steps.

The city with the most average steps per individual and the city with the most overall steps will both receive a trophy and a community-wide celebration sponsored by the county.

Stay tuned! 



Ignoring Traffic Laws? Consider The Costs

Safe driving habits are your best bet for minimizing risk of auto accidents and injuries. But drivers who neglect traffic rules not only put themselves and others at risk, they also face the eventuality of being issued a costly ticket.

The fine for a moving violation can be anywhere from \$100 to \$250, but that's nothing compared to the cost of legal fees, time lost at work, and long-term hikes to your insurance premiums. Even just one moving violation will often lead to substantial increases in your insurance payments.

Different companies have different practices when it comes to raising premiums. Some companies will consider the severity of your violation and raise your rates accordingly, while others will raise rates a specific amount per violation, or take away your "safe driver" discount.

Traffic enforcement is a high priority for the Golden Valley Police Department. In 2008, officers issued 2,886 moving violations, and made 181 DWI arrests. The top four driving violations in 2008 were:

1. Speeding
2. No proof of insurance
3. HOV carpool violation
4. Driving after suspension

So if you're strapped for cash in this down economy, do yourself a favor and obey the traffic laws. Those extra few seconds you might save by speeding or rolling through a stop sign will end up costing you tremendously in the long run. 



SGT MARK PERSONS DEMONSTRATES THE CITY'S LASER TARGETING EQUIPMENT.

Insurance Premium Increases

The following sample from InsuranceHotline.com shows the annual premium differences for a 30-year-old owner of a 2005 Honda Civic (but keep in mind insurance companies all vary in their rates, so it is impossible to predict the exact cost of a moving violation):

- 1 ticket = 11.5% ↑
- 2 tickets = 29.5% ↑
- 3 tickets = 61.3% ↑
- 4 tickets = 98.2% ↑
- 5 tickets = 123.5% ↑

Keep Rec Fires Under Control

If you're one of the many homeowners who enjoys an occasional backyard recreational fire, 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 rec 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. 

Build Your Projects With UP-TO-CODE Materials

One of the best things to keep in mind before starting a remodeling project is the importance of picking the right materials for the job. Do the research and don't rush your decisions, says Gary Johnson, Golden Valley building official.

"Selection of building materials that require less maintenance long term will minimize the amount of work required later," he adds.

More importantly, "some materials, even if you buy them at a legitimate hardware store, may not meet building code requirements," says Jerry Frevel, City building inspector.

"Don't assume they're all approved," he says. So if you're buying structural lumber, check if it has a grade stamp, or a mill certificate of approval. If you're buying decking material, make sure it has an ES or ER report. Visit www.10klakes.org and click on the "Composite Decking" link, which lists decking material that does and does not have an ES or ER report.

Buying improper plumbing material is also a common mistake, Frevel says. Visit www.doli.state.mn.us to find a list of plumbing materials that are up to code. While there, you can also download the Minnesota State Plumbing Code, which you should use as a guideline for your project.

After you get your materials, Frevel says, be sure to follow the manufacturer's installation instructions. This will help you avoid potential problems in the long run.

And don't forget, each major phase of construction (eg, footings, framing, insulation, roofing, electrical, plumbing, mechanical, etc) must be checked by an inspector. The permit holder must request each inspection a minimum of 24 hours in advance. Work that does not conform to the approved plans must be remedied. If the violation is serious, a stop-work order may be posted until the problem is resolved. Another inspection may be necessary before work can resume.

Window and door replacements are two very common spring projects, so also remember that if the opening for the window or door needs to be enlarged, a framing inspection is required. Replacement of exterior doors and the door between the residence and the garage requires a permit. No permit is required for screen door replacement.

When in doubt, call the City of Golden Valley Inspections Department at 763-593-8090. An inspector can help you with any questions you have. 



Some materials, even if you buy them at a legitimate hardware store, may not meet building code requirements.

Roof Replacement Considerations

The roof is one of the most important weatherproofing elements in your home. If your roof is 20 years old or older, has cracks, curled or cupped shingles, worn mineral coatings, exposed nails, previous patches, holes, exposed underlayment or sheathing, or if it leaks (and not simply from the flashing), chances are you may need a new one.

Considerations

Ice Protection—All roofs require an eave treatment that has at least two layers of 15# felt underlayment cemented together or a self-adhering polymer modified bitumen sheet. This sheet is known by a variety of generic and trade names.

Exhaust Vents—Exhaust vents must be installed the same as other attic vents and vent pipe flashings. Take care to ensure that kitchen and bathroom exhaust fan ducts are connected to the appropriate dampered exhaust roof cap with no openings into the attic that would allow exhaust air back into the attic space.

Roof and Soffit Vents—Additional roof and soffit vents must be installed if required by code.

For more information on roof replacement, contact Golden Valley Inspections at 763-593-8090 or download the Residential Roofing Information Sheet available online at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/yourhome/improve.htm. 

Rain Garden Workshops

Part A Workshops

6:30 to 8:30 pm

- Tues, April 14
Champlin Park High School
6025 109th Ave N, Champlin
- Thurs, May 1
St Barnabas Church
15600 Old Rockford Rd, Plymouth
- Thurs, May 28
Brookview Community Center
200 Brookview Pkwy, Golden Valley

Part B Workshops

6:30 to 8:30 pm

- Tues, April 28
Champlin Park High School
- Thurs, May 28
St Barnabas Church
- Thurs, June 11
Brookview Community Center



Workshops To Teach Rain Garden Skills

Those who'd like to redesign their lawns to be both prettier and more eco-friendly are in luck. The City of Golden Valley is joining Metro Blooms and several municipal organizations to provide workshops as a way to give do-it-yourself gardeners more expertise in designing and caring for rain gardens.

Metro Blooms and the Bassett Creek, Elm Creek, Shingle Creek, and West Mississippi Watershed Management Commissions will conduct two rounds of rain garden workshops.

Part A workshops will teach attendees how to design and install rain gardens, effectively use native trees and shrubs, and employ eco-friendly lawn care practices, including redirecting downspouts and minimizing or eliminating fertilizers. Attendees will receive a packet of support material. Cost is \$10 per household (limit two members).

Part B workshops are for those who attended the first round and want more individual help with their rain garden design. Metro Blooms landscape design assistants and Hennepin County master gardeners will answer individual questions about garden layout and native plant selection. Cost is \$10 per household (limit two members).

To register by mail, send a check payable to Metro Blooms to Noelle Hechtman, 3629 Quebec Ave S, St Louis Park, 55426. Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail, and the workshop location/date you wish to attend.

You can also register online at www.metroblooms.org or by calling 651-699-2426.



City of
Golden Valley

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

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