

Golden Valley

CityNEWS



Pentel And Scanlon Re-Elected To Council

Incumbents Paula Pentel and DeDe Scanlon were re-elected to the Golden Valley City Council Nov 3, topping a field of five candidates who were vying for two four-year Council seats (see election results at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us). Council Members Mike Freiberg and Bob Shaffer, along with Mayor Linda Loomis, round out the City Council.

Pentel has lived in Golden Valley 24 years. She was first appointed to City Council in September 2004 to fill the seat vacated when Council Member Blair Tremere resigned to begin a job with the Metropolitan Council. She was re-elected to a four-year term in November 2005. Pentel has been active in Golden Valley City government since 1992, serving on the City's Planning Commission (1992-2004), Board of Zoning Appeals, Sidewalk Committee (1993-2004), and the task forces that helped guide redevelopment at the northwest corner of Winnetka Ave and Golden Valley Rd and the northeast corner of Hwy 55 and Winnetka Ave. Pentel is working on a PhD in geography at the University of Minnesota and is a teaching specialist and undergraduate advisor in the University's Urban Studies Program.

Scanlon, a 32-year resident of Golden Valley, was first elected to the City Council in November 2005. Recently retired from a social services development and fundraising career, Scanlon currently serves on the YMCA Community Board of Directors, Friends of H.O.M.E. Board of Directors, and two School District 281 advisory committees, among others. She is active in several local organizations, including the Golden Valley Women's Club and the Gardening Club. Scanlon has also served on Golden Valley's Open Space and Recreation Commission and Outdoor Pool Task Force, Golden Valley Little League and Babe Ruth League baseball boards, and several committees for School District 281 and Benilde-St Margaret's. She has a bachelor's degree in sociology from St Cloud State University.



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

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Get Your *Passport* At GV DMV

If you're planning to fly anywhere outside the country this year, or even just drive to Canada, 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 taking a spring trip, apply for a passport now.

The Golden Valley Department of Motor Vehicles, 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.

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.

City Works To Ease Property Tax Impact

For the 2010 tax levy, the City of Golden Valley used three financial tools to ease the impact on property tax payers:

- reduced City's general fund expenditures from 2009 by 3.33 percent
- reduced City's total debt levy by 1.84 percent
- closed the last area of the Valley Square Tax Increment District, resulting in an additional \$53,790,000 in taxable market value for the City

General Fund Expenditures

The City's proposed General Operating Levy includes a decrease in general fund expenditures of \$514,220, or 3.33 percent. This reflects no pay increases for employees, delayed rehiring upon retirements, loss of Market Value Homestead Credit, and delayed capital and equipment purchases. The City also participates in money-saving partnerships, consortiums, and group purchasing. The tax levy provides for many City services.

Total Debt Levy

In 2009, due to the lower interest rates, the City was able to refinance two old debt issues for a total savings of \$633,437. Because this existing debt will be paid off over time, the savings will impact future debt levies. The City of Golden Valley consistently reviews its debt for future refinancings as allowed by State Statute.

Valley Square Tax Increment District

By decertifying the last portion (Area B) of the Valley Square Tax Increment District, starting in 2010, the City can use the district's increased market value of \$53,790,000 to pump up the total market value of the city. This helps decrease the tax impact on property owners.

Area B of the Valley Square Tax Increment District is bounded by Winnetka Ave on the east, Hwy 55 on the south, Wisconsin Ave on the west, and Bassett Creek on the north. The City began redeveloping the Valley Square District in 1978 but decertified it in three different phases. (For a complete history of the Valley Square Tax Increment District, read the next issue of *CityNews*.)

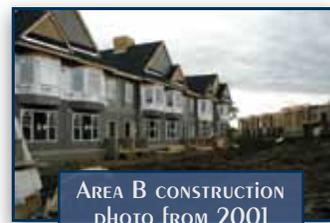
Tax increment financing is a tool cities use to redevelop a specific area. The City issues tax increment bonds and is responsible for their repayment. The property taxes paid on the increased market value of the redeveloped area is called "increment" and is not distributed to the various taxing jurisdictions. Instead, it is retained by the City to pay off the debt service on the bonds.

As of December 31, 2009, the City currently has two tax increment districts using this type of financing: the Valley Square Tax Increment District, which the City will close in 2010, and the Golden Hills Tax Increment District, which will remain open until the last debt service payment is made in 2015.

For more information about how your City tax dollars are used or the City's proposed 2010 budget or tax levy, go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us. If you have a question, contact Finance Director Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010.

City Meetings

The City Council will hold an informal informational meeting on the 2010-2011 City budget and 2010 proposed tax levy Dec 8, 6:30 pm, in the City Council Chambers. The Council will hold a public hearing and take final action on the budget and levy Dec 15, 7 pm.



AREA B CONSTRUCTION
PHOTO FROM 2001

ENVISION Valley Days Founders Get Golden VISI Award

More than six years ago, a group of Golden Valley residents decided the time was right to bring back a community-wide festival. Their grass-roots organizing efforts resulted in the birth of the Golden Valley Community Events Fund (GVCEF) and the first annual Golden Valley Arts and Music Festival, held May 22, 2004.



That first year the event featured artist booths, live music, food booths, and games for kids. Since then it has grown to include a Friday night concert and picnic with fireworks at Brookview Park, a Saturday morning parade, a car show, and more art, music, food, and games.

In recognition of their efforts, the City presented its Golden Visi Oct 20 to the five initial GVCEF board members: Scott Grayson, Don Keysser, Peter Knaeble, Anna Silverman, and Luke Weisberg.

Visi Award Winners, from left to right: DON KEYSER, ANNA SILVERMAN, SCOTT GRAYSON, LUKE WEISBERG, AND PETER KNAEBLE

"This weekend event has grown to include activities for all ages," says Golden Valley City Council member DeDe Scanlon, who nominated the group for the award. "It has also created a summer event that draws people from surrounding areas to participate in the community of Golden Valley. The potential for growth in this event is boundless."

The Golden Visi award is reserved for people who envision a way to improve Golden Valley and then make it happen. It is the brainchild of the Envision Connection Project an outgrowth of *Envision Golden Valley*, the city-wide visioning process in which hundreds of citizens shared ideas for the future of Golden Valley. The Connection Project and Golden Valley Bridge Builders help individuals or groups to regularly connect with others in the community who share similar interests. Initiatives blossoming today with the help of Bridge Builders include the annual community ice cream social, the lilac planting party along Hwy 55, and the After School in the Valley program.

Anyone can be a Golden Valley Bridge Builder or nominate someone for a Golden Visi. To learn more, contact Assistant City Manager Jeanne Andre at jandre@ci.golden-valley.mn.us or 763-593-8014.

GVHSF Partners With Perkins For Pies

Help yourself to some pie and help the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF) at the same time.

Through its new Partnership with Perkins for Pies, the GVHSF will benefit when its supporters buy pies. Fill out a form (available at Perkins, City Hall, Brookview Community Center, or www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/gvhsf/pies.htm), return it to City Hall or Park and Recreation at least a day in advance (by mail, fax, or in person), then go to either Golden Valley Perkins restaurant to pay and pick up your pie. Perkins will donate to the GVHSF a percentage of the cost of every pie purchased.

Questions? Contact Jeanne Fackler at 763-512-2340. Golden Valley Park and Recreation fax: 763-512-2344.



Run The Valley T-Shirt Design Contest

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

There is no particular message to convey. The designer may choose content; however, the City of Golden Valley logo or the name "Golden Valley Human Services Foundation" must appear somewhere within the design. There are no size requirements. The GVHSF reserves the right to add these features to the design if not included. The use of humor is not required but perfectly acceptable.



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

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

The **deadline for entries is Jan 8, 2009**. Drop them off at Brookview Community Center, 200 Brookview Parkway, Golden Valley, MN 55426.

GREEN Gift Guide

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

For The Home

- Gift card to a nursery
- Compost bins or rain barrels
- Gift certificate for a class on sustainable landscaping
- Solar-powered chargers and gadgets
- Energy saving light bulbs
- Programmable thermostat
- Water-saving shower head

Practical And Useful

- Savings bonds or education IRAs
- Bus passes
- Co-op membership
- Cloth shopping bags
- Organic cotton clothing and linens (blankets, throws, towels, etc)

For A Good Time

- Passes to National or State parks
- Tickets to arts or sporting events
- Gift cards (restaurants, spas, travel, hobby activities)
- Organic or fair trade wines, cheeses, or chocolates

To Help Out

- Endangered animal adoptions
- Loans to families in third world countries (www.kiva.org)
- Camp fees for a kid in need

Compostable Yard Waste Bags Required In 2010

Beginning Jan 1, 2010 most metro-area residents, including Golden Valley residents, will be required to put all yard waste and organics in compostable bags for curbside pick-up.

This means during next year's spring clean up, all the leaves and sticks in your yard will need to be collected in biodegradable bags, so it's important to keep in mind not to buy too many traditional plastic bags for clean up this fall.



Black plastic leaf bags will be NO MORE IN THE METRO AREA AFTER THIS FALL.

The new law affects residents in the following counties: Anoka, Carver, Hennepin (excluding the City of Minneapolis), Ramsey, Scott, and Washington. Dakota County has been requiring compostable bags for years.

Compostable plastic bags are distinct from regular plastic bags because they are usually clear or a green-tinted opaque color. To be sure you're buying the right bags, look for the word "compostable" on the box. The words "lawn and leaf" or "yard waste" do not guarantee the bag is acceptable to use under the new rule. The bags should clearly state that they meet ASTM D6400 standards for composting. Bags marked "biodegradable" or "degradable" do not meet the state law.

Most home improvement, grocery, and hardware stores now carry the compostable bags. The shelf life of a compostable bag is approximately one to three years. Be sure to review the label and purchase accordingly.

The law is meant to decrease overall costs and help the environment. Once your yard waste or source separated compostable waste is picked up, it is delivered to a compost facility. Waste at composting facilities must be debagged, which increases costs and the chance that plastic bags will be blowing around on site, causing a safety hazard. Some compost sites shred the bag and its contents and attempt to screen the torn pieces of plastics later. Unfortunately not all plastic shreds can be screened out, which reduces the value and quality of the finished compost.

For more information on the new compostable plastic bag requirements and how they will affect you, visit RethinkRecycling.com.

Source: Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board

Golden Valley Recycles

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

Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Christmas	Sat, Dec 26
New Year's '10	Sat, Jan 2
Memorial Day '10	Sat, Jun 5
July 4 '10	Fri, July 9
Labor Day '10	Sat, Sept 11
Thanksgiving '10	Sat, Nov 27

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.



Foresters Bracing For Triple TREE THREAT

Just as buckthorn and garlic mustard plants have grown to threatening levels in the area, the invasive insect Emerald Ash Borer has been discovered mere miles from Golden Valley's borders.

This triple threat on trees has Golden Valley foresters bracing for a busy couple of years.

"Concerns are really going to start heating up this April," says Tim Teynor, Golden Valley assistant forester.



BUCKTHORN



EMERALD ASH BORER



GARLIC MUSTARD PLANT

Threat #1: EMERALD ASH BORER

The impact of the Emerald Ash Borer in the years ahead is yet to be determined, but experts predict disheartening outcomes.

"It's going to be a big issue," says Al Lundstrom, Golden Valley environmental coordinator. "It's going to be bigger than Dutch Elm disease."

It may, however, take a half a decade before it reaches Golden Valley trees, he added. It's hard to tell. In the meantime, Golden Valley is looking for outside funding sources to pay for a study of Golden Valley trees to determine where the major threats lie, while officials wait for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to devise a state-wide defensive plan.

Threat #2: BUCKTHORN

Meanwhile, the invasive buckthorn and garlic mustard plants are a growing threat. Both are foreign to the natural ecosystem and aggressively compete with native plants for sunlight.

"Of all the invasive species, buckthorn is the biggest problem here," Lundstrom says. Both common buckthorn, also called European, and glossy buckthorn are well-established in Minnesota. They are recognizable as tall understory shrubs or small trees with brown bark and silvery projections that grow to 20-feet high.

The problem with buckthorn is that it blossoms earlier than native plants and stays green longer, shading other vegetation from sunlight. So if you see it in your property, remove it or trim it down. Buckthorn is especially harmful when its berries are allowed to grow, Teynor says, because when birds eat the berries, they spread the seeds to other areas. Keeping buckthorn tightly hedged can prevent this. If you want to remove the plant from your yard altogether, the City will lend you the tools to do this as available.

This summer, the City, with the help of volunteers, continued work removing buckthorn from North Tyrol Park, Hampshire Park, and Wildwood Park (see sidebar). If you're interested in volunteering for buckthorn removal projects, call 763-593-3976.

Threat #3: GARLIC MUSTARD PLANT

The garlic mustard plants, though smaller than buckthorn, also kill off native plants and flowers along forest floors. Foresters are seeking a long-term control using biological agents. Other management methods include hand removal, herbicide treatments, and repeated burning, though none can control large infestations. Report suspected infestations to the DNR Exotic Species Program (651-259-5100) or the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (651-296-6123).

The triple threat of garlic mustard, buckthorn and Emerald Ash Borer "puts us all on a learning curve," Teynor says. Keep reading *CityNews* or visit the Minnesota Department of Agriculture at www.mda.state.mn.us for further developments.

Help Bust BUCKTHORN

Buckthorn busting is gaining momentum in Golden Valley, and City staff is here to help.

To combat buckthorn (see story at left) and other invasive plants in the community, the Golden Valley City Council approved ordinance changes in 2005 to allow volunteers to work on public land (upon approval by the Public Works Department).

So to support the initiative, City Council also allotted funding for supplies, brush removal, insurance, etc. City staff then assembled a kit, including tools such as weed wrenches, to help volunteers who want to work in city natural areas.

The program is available annually on a first come, first served basis. The application folder includes forms and sign-up sheets for volunteers, education on buckthorn identification (with photos), and helpful suggestions for buckthorn removal and use of tools.

Since the program began, City staff has partnered with volunteers from various parts of the city to remove buckthorn. The South Rice Lake Association, for example, was an early adopter.

And projects continue to crop up. Tim Teynor, Golden Valley's assistant city forester, identified three buckthorn busting projects started during 2009:

- North Tyrol Park
- Hampshire Park, north side
- Wildwood Park

"If people are interested in helping remove buckthorn in these areas, give us a call, and we'll connect them with the project organizers," says Teynor. "If you want to start your own project, we'll help with that, too."

If you want to organize a project in your area, or if you want to volunteer on a project already under way, contact the City (763-593-3976) for an application folder. When funding for one year is exhausted, interested residents will be put on a waiting list for the following year.

Buckthorn photo by Cady Hoag, Emerald Ash Borer photo by Iowa State University Extension, Garlic Mustard Plant photo by Jacob Eros

Recreation OPPORTUNITIES

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

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Supper With Santa (children of all ages, must be accompanied by an adult)—Includes pizza, a fun-filled holiday show, and a visit from Santa. Dec 4, 6–7:30 at Brookview Community Center. Must pre-register.

Mailbox To The North Pole—Use Brookview's special Direct-to-the-North-Pole mailbox through Dec 18. Santa requests that each letter include a full name and address so he can reply.

Youth Basketball (boys and girls grades 2–6)—Volunteer coaches needed. Jan–mid-March; register by Dec 18.

Mites Basketball (boys and girls grades K–1)—Saturday morning skills program, Jan 23–March 13.

DAVIS COMMUNITY CENTER OPEN GYMS

Holiday Youth Gym—Winter break activities: Session 1: Dec 21–24, 9 am–noon; Session 2: Dec 21–23, 1–4 pm; Session 3: Dec. 28–31, 9 am–noon; Session 4: Dec. 28–31, 1–4 pm. Limit 30/session. Must pre-register; \$15/child.

Shoot Some Buckets (age 7+ with adult)—Sun, 1 pm.

Family Gym Time—Sat, 10 am; Sun, 1 pm.

Over 40 Basketball—Mon, 8 pm.

Volleyball—Tue & Thu, 8 pm; Sun, 3 pm.

Adult Basketball—Wed, 8 pm; Sat, 8 am.

Register in person, by mail, phone, fax (763-512-2344), or online (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/econnect/).

For more information, contact:

**Park & Recreation
Brookview Community Center
200 Brookview Parkway
Golden Valley, MN 55426
763-512-2345
Monday–Friday, 8 am–5 pm**

Skating Season Is Just Around The Corner

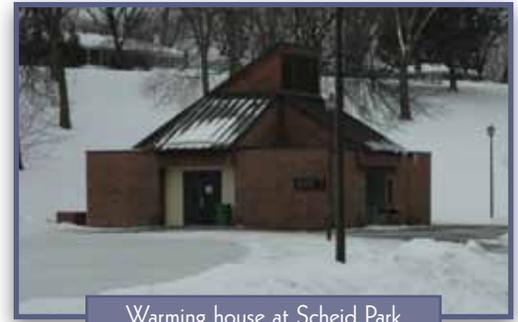
Golden Valley's skating rinks offer fun and recreation for cold weather enthusiasts of all ages.

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

Crews like to get rinks open by mid-December and keep them open until mid-February, but making base ice requires a lengthy stretch of below-freezing days. If rinks don't have complete ice coverage, they can be unsafe for skaters. And while weather conditions were normal last year, five of the last six years were warmer than average, leading to some late openings and early closings.

Once the rinks are open, depending on weather conditions, crews clean and resurface them Monday through Friday and clean them on Saturday mornings.

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



Warming house at Scheid Park

Golden Valley Skating Rinks

Schedule

Rinks open Dec 19 and close Feb 15 (weather permitting).

Monday–Friday: 4–9 pm

Saturday: 10 am–9 pm

Sunday: 1–9 pm

Holidays

Christmas Eve: 10 am–4 pm

Christmas Day: closed

New Year's Eve: 10 am–7 pm

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

Martin Luther King Day: 10 am–9 pm

Presidents' Day: 10 am–9 pm

Other school release days: noon–9 pm

Locations

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

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

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

Building Community, One Giant PUMPKIN At A Time

It all started with four guys, a couple of beers, and a challenge.

Jon Horkey, Karl Cambronne, George Abide, and Trent Brunner, four neighbors just hanging out one day 13 years ago, decided to have a contest: who could grow the biggest pumpkin in their yard?

"At first people thought we were a bunch of nuts," Horkey says. "Now they really appreciate it."

The pumpkin-growing competition gained interest from other neighbors, and it quickly turned into a neighborhood-wide annual tradition. That tradition led to an annual weigh-in festival that attracts nearly 1,000 attendees.

What was just four neighbors socializing and having fun, Horkey says, is now a community event.

"The whole idea behind this is all about community," says Joe Forster, the 2009 president of the Kelly Drive Pumpkin Growers Association. "Twenty-seven families are involved in putting this on, with the idea to bring community together."

The planners rely on donations to put on the three-hour event, which includes pony rides, hay rides, a DJ, a magician, visits from the Golden Valley Police and Fire Departments and other government officials, a BBQ and tables of baked goods, a sunflower competition and, of course, the giant pumpkin weigh-off. The biggest pumpkin at this year's event weighed in at roughly 882 pounds, an event record.

People have made a lot of friends through the event, Forster says. It fosters relationships and reinforces bonds.

What's Your Giant PUMPKIN Idea?

Such festivals are in the spirit of community connectedness, which the City of Golden Valley has encouraged for years through a program called Bridge Builders. Bridge Builders is an outgrowth of Envision Golden Valley, the City's successful community visioning process.

If you'd like to do something in the spirit of the Kelly Drive Pumpkin Growers Association, something that fosters community bonds, but feel a little overwhelmed, call Assistant City Manager Jeanne Andre at 763-593-8014 to find out how to use Bridge Builders to your advantage. The program is a way for individuals and groups to match up with like-minded folks who want to make things happen in their community.

The Kelly Drive Pumpkin Festival, however, was conceived before Bridge Builders through good old-fashioned neighborly friendships—Horkey, Cambronne, Abide, and Brunner, sitting around challenging each other on the art of growing a pumpkin, and turning that into the art of growing a community.

For more information on the festival, held each year in early October at the intersection of Kelly Dr and Duluth St, visit kellydrive.org. For more information about Bridge Builders, go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/Envision.htm and click on Bridge Builders.



Kelly Drive Pumpkin Growers Association

Senior Stuff

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

LIVING WISE AND WELL

Dec 3: "Fall Prevention and Staying Safe In Your Home" • Jan 7: "Hidden Gem of Golden Valley—Courage Center"
1 pm, Calvary Cooperative, 7600 Golden Valley Rd

HOLIDAY BAND CONCERT

Dec 3: 7 pm refreshments/7:30 pm concert. Concert and sing-a-long with the Robbinsdale City Band. Cost: Donation for refreshments. Crystal Community Center. 5 Cities Transportation available.

INSURANCE COUNSELING

Dec 8 & Jan 12. Call for FREE one-hour appointment at 9, 10, or 11 am.

HOLIDAY TEA

Dec 9, 1—2:30 pm, \$6. Enjoy high tea with music by Dick Lowey, former pianist for the Hotel Sofitel. Bring your own tea cup and saucer to add to the fun. 5 Cities Transportation available. Register by Dec 2.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING

• 4-Hour Refresher Course—Dec 10 & Jan 14, 9 am—1 pm, \$17

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

HAPPY FEET FOOT CARE CLINIC

Dec 15: Call 763-560-5136 to schedule a half-hour appointment. Fee: \$30, payable to Happy Feet Footcare, Inc at time of service.

"MARY WANDERERS" TRIP PROGRAM

• Dec 15: "Away in the Basement" and lunch at Plymouth Playhouse, \$50. Register by Nov 25.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Jan 27 at 9, 10, or 11 am. Free.

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



Well-Planned *and* Well-Followed Codes KEY to a City's Quality of Life

Everything about a city—the way neighborhoods are laid out, the locations of parks, and business districts—is all part of a plan. The Zoning Code helps enforce that plan.



"Cities that stick to a well-considered zoning code give residents the security of knowing they won't be faced with any unpleasant surprises," says Mark Grimes, Golden Valley's director of planning and development. "If you live in a city with a poor code, a great neighborhood can be ruined by unexpected and misplaced developments. You'll see noisy factories built next to what used to be million dollar homes. You'll see lack of open space. You'll see convoluted layouts of business districts. You'll see mismatched structures and haphazard construction. The quality of life suffers. Bad planning leads to blight."

That's why, in Golden Valley, if you build a porch or a garage that doesn't meet zoning code standards, you'll be told to correct it. Even something as seemingly insignificant as a garage built 10 feet too close to the street can throw off the aesthetics of an entire neighborhood, dropping everybody's property values.

"If we have specifications in the code about where you can and can't build a structure, that's for a reason," Grimes says. "We set garages back at a certain distance to create open views and give lawns a little breathing space. It looks better and makes the neighborhood a more desirable place to live."

That's why you should always check with the City before you build something, and that includes putting up a shed, constructing a patio, or constructing a retaining wall, he adds.

LONG TERM VISION *meets* SHORT-TERM REVISIONS

City planners, in a nutshell, plan cities that are economically successful and self-sustaining, cities that meet the changing needs of residents, says Joe Hogeboom, Golden Valley's city planner.

"Our goal is to ensure that Golden Valley preserves quality-of-life features that distinguish it from the surrounding communities," Hogeboom says. "The codes provide consistency in planning that fairly applies to all property owners. Inconsistency with ordinances can affect property values and tends to have a domino effect on neighborhoods."

Property owners who disagree with the zoning code can take their cases public and work to change the code for the better.

"Citizen input is key in establishing plans and ordinances that work for the community," Hogeboom says. "Individuals who wish to have an exception to the zoning code can take their case to the City's Board of Zoning Appeals."

These revisions keep the code up-to-date and acknowledge the ever-changing realities of modern life.

So while consistency and set standards are important, "many trends arise in the middle of planning, and you have to make changes for them," says Grimes. "You have to make sure all your plans are flexible."

Changing trends that need to be considered include needs for city-to-city cooperation, aging populations, concerns for the environment, higher transportation costs, enhanced technology, and more emphasis on active living.

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

But, he adds, while the zoning code constantly evolves and improves, it will always stick to the core principles of consistency, aesthetics, compatibility, safety, and practicality.

"Good city planning Hogeboom says, "c short-term realities."

For more information upcoming public me valley.mn.us/zoning/ Planning Department

BUILDING ZONING CO

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As the zoning code aesthetics, and safety sets standards and n precedent for new c buildings within the had a different set o construction workers each project, but th haphazardly from ho codes ensure uniform and safety across th

"If builders don't kn a lot of headaches," Johnson. The best v headaches, he adds, and understand it b make sure hired con

If you have question Inspections Departm yet, stop by City H Golden Valley Rd) how the building an inspector.



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[landuse.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/landuse.htm) or contact the
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to discuss your project, and
d zoning codes affect it, with an



ACCESSORY STRUCTURES

Must be completely behind the house, at least 10 feet away from the house/deck, and 5 feet away from property lines. Allowable size is determined by the total amount of accessory structure already on your property.

COMPOST BINS

Must be 5 feet away from property lines.

PATIOS

Patios (paved or wooden structures less than 8 inches in height) must be at least 3 feet away from your property line.

DECKS

A deck over 8 inches high must follow the setback requirements for your house (must stay a certain number of feet away from the property line). Decks are included in the overall footprint of your home.

FENCES

A fence can be no higher than 6 feet (4 feet when it's in front of your house). The finished side of the fence must face outside your property. All posts must be completely inside your property.

AIR CONDITIONERS

Must be behind your house or enclosed by a screen.

Planning an ADDITION?

Call the Planning Dept to learn how much space is required between your home and all property lines.

PORCHES

See decks.

DRIVEWAYS

Can be no closer than 3 feet to the side property line and are limited in size by the allowable amount of paved surfaces on your property.

RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW)

Check with the City regarding regulations about planting, building, or excavating in City right-of-way (ROW).

WHAT ELSE?

The Zoning Code also regulates allowable home occupations, car/RV storage on your property, swimming pool location and size, and more. You can view the entire zoning code at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/zoning/landuse.htm.

The ZONING CODE and YOUR PROPERTY: WHERE CAN I BUILD IT?

The illustration above offers an overview of some of the ways the zoning code affects residential property. Always call the Planning Department (763-593-8095) for the most accurate regulations before investing your time and money into a project.

Join Neighborhood Watch

When neighbors work together with the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD), it creates the best crime fighting team around. Neighborhood Watch educates citizens about local crime trends and criminals and encourages better communication among neighbors.

The GVPD hosts annual Neighborhood Watch meetings by zone (see schedule below). In 2010, all meetings will be held in the Golden Valley Public Safety Training Room, 7800 Golden Valley Rd.

To locate your zone or learn more about Neighborhood Watch, go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/publicsafety/neighborhoodwatch.htm. Upcoming zone meetings will feature the GVPD video "Answering The Call," current crime trends, high-profile cases from 2009, and a time to meet new neighbors.

If you're interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch in your area, contact Crime Prevention Specialist Joanne Paul at 763-593-8058 or jpaul@ci.golden-valley.mn.us.



We immediately report SUSPICIOUS PERSONS and activities to our Police Dept.

Meeting Schedule

Zones

9 & 10	January 12, 2010
8	March 1, 2010
6	March 15, 2010
5a	April 20, 2010
5b & 7	May 11, 2010
1	October 2010
2 & 4	October 2010
3	November 2010

Exact dates for Zones 1, 2 & 4, and 3 have yet to be determined.

All meetings will be held in the Golden Valley Public Safety Building Training Room, 7800 Golden Valley Rd.

Bike Cop Program Fosters Community Outreach

In the last couple of years the Golden Valley Police Department has put renewed emphasis on community outreach policing, which focuses on developing face-to-face relationships between residents and law enforcement, says Police Sgt Dennis Arons.

This has led to, among other things, increased bike patrols in the City. As with officers on foot patrols, when police get out of their car and get on a bike, they become more accessible to residents, Arons says.

"Bike cops can get into any corner of the city and address problems and build relationships," he says. "Often we respond to areas where there have been previous police calls and can tackle them with a higher level of enforcement to curb trouble."

Bike patrol officers have the ability to make face-to-face contacts with kids and families and develop relationships, he says. Along with that, officers hear first-hand about special policing needs for the different neighborhoods.

"For example," Arons says, "a bike officer may be out at Hampshire Park working an event and a parent may describe an unsafe traffic problem in their neighborhood that the police can correct. This same parent may not call the police, but when we see them in an everyday contact, they share information."

Bike patrol officers have the ability to make face-to-face contacts with kids and families and develop relationships.

The Department has six officers who regularly patrol on bikes.

These officers also hold bike-safety park events, where they routinely get between 50-70 parents and kids in attendance. On warm days, the Fire Department sends a fire truck and firefighter to douse the kids with water.

"The parents have approached us and have been very thankful for our time in the parks and their neighborhoods," Arons says.

Bike patrol officers also spend a lot of time on the Three Rivers Trail between Hwy 169 and Theodore Wirth Park. A police presence on park trails gives bikers, walkers and runners an extra feeling of safety, Arons says. Officers will even bring gifts and treats with them to hand out to community members.

"When a family sees an officer pedal into a park, smile, talk about safety, and give them a flashlight and ice cream treat," Arons says, "a new relationship has just begun, a relationship that is likely to foster support of the police department and an officer who is more invested."



GOLDEN VALLEY'S BIKE COP PROGRAM AIMS TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE COMMUNITY.



Keep Your Loved Ones Safe With Thoughtful Gifts

People often neglect to buy or update household safety items, which makes them the perfect holiday gifts for friends and family, says Stephen Baker, Golden Valley fire education specialist. Not only are these gifts thoughtful, but they just may save lives.

Here are a few gift ideas Baker suggests:

Portable GPS Navigation Systems feature detailed maps, spoken directions, and visual instructions. Some include hands-free calling tools and MP3 connections.

Portable Jump Starters can charge a car battery in minutes. They are also a power source for cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices.

Digital Dashboard Compass/Wayfinder will keep drivers on course and help them navigate unfamiliar roads or waters. Some are dash-mounted but can be removed and used while walking.

Weather Alert Radios can help keep loved ones safe during inclement weather. Consider one that activates during an emergency weather forecast to provide important information. For extra protection, consider hand-crank models that don't need batteries or electricity to operate. These are particularly appreciated by boaters and campers.

Light Sensors automatically turn outdoor lights on when it's dark.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detectors are required by law to be installed within 10 feet of each bedroom in all Minnesota homes, including in existing apartments.

Other safety gift ideas include bike helmets, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, rechargeable flashlights, escape ladders, power strips, personal flotation devices (life jackets), swimming lessons, self-defense classes, defensive driving classes, and more. For more information, check with local stores, community education offerings, or the GVFD (763-593-3977).



Adopt A Fire Hydrant

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

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



Give The Gift Of Being A Good Neighbor

With carbon monoxide build-ups, icy sidewalks, snowy driveways, and sub-zero temperatures, winter can be a hazardous season, especially for the elderly.

If you're in good shape and living next door to a senior, volunteer to shovel their sidewalk and driveway, says Golden Valley Fire Education Specialist Stephen Baker. And visit them when you can to make sure they're doing OK. Check if their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors have fresh batteries, and see if their doors and windows are cold-weather proof.

"Don't wait for them to call for help," Baker says. "Keep an eye out for them."

**Dad.
History Buff.
Firefighter.**

**Ben
New Recruit, 2007**



FOR BEN VOGEL, JOINING THE GOLDEN Valley Fire Department was "easily one of the top five decisions I've made in my life." He'd wanted to sign up when he moved to Golden Valley, but after putting it off for 10 years, he realized there was never going to be a perfect time.

"The first six months of training is pretty significant," says Vogel. "But you end up fully prepared and well informed to contribute as a firefighter. For me, too, it's a great confidence builder."

Vogel feels good helping out at fire calls and says he learns a lot working with the more experienced firefighters. "It's been better than I expected," he adds. "If you're willing to make the commitment and have your family's backing, from my perspective, it would be one of the best decisions of your life."

goldenvalleyfire.com

Winter Parking & other ordinances

Parking On Public Streets

Parking is not allowed on public streets after a snowfall of at least two inches until snow has been plowed to the curb line. After a snowfall of at least two inches, cars in violation are cited by patrolling police. Vehicles found to be obstructing traffic or snow plows, and those still in violation after 24 hours, may be towed. It's safest just to move your vehicle from the streets whenever snow is in the forecast.

Plow Damage

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

Snow Removal From Private Property

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

Use Common Sense When **Winter** Driving

The best way to stay safe while driving in winter is to take notice of the increased dangers and use common sense. As plows clear the streets of snow this winter, Golden Valley's Public Works Department asks for your help to keep the plow season accident-free. Residents can stay safe and help snow plow operators by:

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

Plowing

Another way to help is to be patient. Golden Valley's Public Works Street Maintenance crew must clear more than 120 miles of city streets and more than 40 miles of sidewalk every time it snows, and they may not always get to your street first. After snow accumulates to two inches or more and stops falling, the plows head out. And to keep traffic moving, crews first focus on main arterial routes and through streets that connect neighborhoods to state and county roads. Plowing stops if strong winds and drifting cause unsafe conditions. It resumes when conditions improve.

De-Icing

Treat de-icing trucks with the same caution as you do the plows. The trucks are out for a reason—it's icy, and it's hazardous. If you pass at a reckless speed, don't forget you're driving right out onto unpredictable pavement conditions.

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

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

With your patience and help, the upcoming winter commute will be safer for everyone. If you have questions, call Public Works Street Maintenance Supervisor Chuck Perkins at 763-593-8082, or go to www.ci.goldenvalley.mn.us/streets/winterstreets.htm. ❧

Cooperative Snow Tips

Efficient, effective snow removal requires cooperation from the public:

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





City Completes 2009 Projects, Preps For 2010

In 2009 the City of Golden Valley rehabilitated approximately four miles of local streets in northern Golden Valley as part of its ongoing Pavement Management Program (PMP). The project included all streets south of Culver Rd, north of Golden Valley Rd, west of Noble Ave, and east of Hwy 100, with the exception of the streets west of Bassett Creek that have already been reconstructed to City standards.

In November, Palda & Sons, the City's contractor for the project, finished paving and placing sod in all 2009 construction areas. Streets in the 2009 PMP were reconstructed to City standards, including concrete curb and gutter. The City also completed the sidewalk along Regent Ave and built three storm water facilities at Regent Ave and West Bend Rd and at Scott Ave and Hampton Rd.



2009 PROJECT RECONSTRUCTED STREET

2010 PMP

Preparations continue for the 2010 PMP, which includes rehabilitating approximately three miles of local streets and utilities in the area just south of Hwy 55, north of Glenwood Ave, and west of the Arts High School.

Streets will be reconstructed to City standards, including concrete curb and gutter. The project will also address any necessary repairs to the storm water sewer, water mains, and sanitary sewer mains. Work on the project will begin in spring 2010.

2011 PMP

For 2011, the PMP will move to the Lawn Terrace area of Golden Valley, which is between Hwy 100 and Turner's Crossroad and I-394 and Glenwood Ave. It will also include King Hill Rd and King Creek Rd south of Glenwood Ave as well as Welcome Ave, Welcome Circle, and Phoenix St south of Golden Valley Rd and west of Hwy 100.

The City begins preliminary survey and design work and meets with affected property owners at least one year before a proposed project is presented to the City Council at a public hearing. The City sends public hearing notices to each resident along streets being considered for rehabilitation at least 10 days before the hearing.

Preliminary work—surveying, soil borings, neighborhood participation, and preliminary design—is already under way for the 2011 PMP streets.

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



2010 PROJECT STREET



Maintenance Perks Up Xerxes, Wayzata Blvd

After Golden Valley streets are reconstructed, they are managed with planned maintenance to extend their lifespan. This summer's overlay projects on Xerxes Ave and the South I-394 Frontage Rd were part of the plan to keep those streets in good condition for many years to come.

In July, the Cities of Golden Valley and Minneapolis began a joint project to rehabilitate Xerxes Ave N from Plymouth Ave to McNair Ave. Crews removed and replaced defective curb and driveway apron sections as necessary, removed/milled off the top 2 inches of existing pavement, then overlaid it with new asphalt pavement.

The project also narrowed the existing pavement between 14th and 16th Avenues to provide some traffic calming benefits and maintain a consistent street width. Work was completed by mid-September.

In August, the City of Golden Valley began rehabilitating the South I-394 Frontage Rd from General Mills Blvd to just east of France Ave. Crews removed/milled off the top 2 inches of existing pavement and overlaid it with new asphalt pavement. They also replaced defective curb and driveway approaches as necessary, striped the centerline and added new lines on both sides of the roadway, and slightly narrowed the street width to improve visibility at the MTC park and ride lots. Crews also added a dedicated right turn lane (striping changes only) on the east side of General Mills Blvd to reduce backups at that intersection. 



MN Requires Child Safety Restraints In Vehicles

Vehicle seats and safety belts are built to fit adults, not children. Buckling children in the appropriate restraint, the right way, can protect them during a crash or sudden stop.

Minnesota's Child Passenger Restraint Law (MN Stat 169.685) outlines appropriate vehicle safety restraints for children. It applies to all motor vehicles originally equipped with factory-installed seat belts and to all seating positions. Here are the basics:

- Children must ride in rear-facing infant seats from birth to at least one year old and at least 20 pounds. They should ride in forward-facing toddler seats from age one and at least 20 pounds to about age four and at least 40 pounds. They should ride in booster seats from about age four and 40 pounds to at least age 8, unless 4' 9" tall. At age eight or older or taller than 4' 9", they should wear lap and shoulder safety belts.
- All safety or booster seats must meet federal safety standards and be installed and used according to the manufacturer's instructions. Safety seats must be secured to the vehicle.
- Children are not ready for a seat belt alone until they can sit with their back against the vehicle seat, knees bent completely over the seat and feet touching the floor.
- All children under age 13 should ride in the back seat.

According to the law, the vehicle driver is responsible for securing children properly. Suspected non-use is a valid basis to stop a motor vehicle. Violations result in a petty misdemeanor fine of \$50 (may be waived if violator shows proof of obtaining a safety seat within 14 days) and are recorded onto a violator's driving record.

Fines collected from violations of this law go into a special account dedicated to purchasing child safety seats for lower income families. 

Don't Leave Your Car Running Unattended

It's so tempting on cold mornings, when your car is just a big block of frozen metal, to turn on the ignition and let your vehicle run, unattended, as you go back inside to stay warm.

It's also the No. 1 reason cars get stolen in the winter.

"People take advantage of it," says Golden Valley Police Chief Stacy Altonen. "If you do it regularly, and your car hasn't been stolen yet, you've just been lucky."

When you leave your car running unattended, you're making it way too easy for crooks, she says. Several cars per winter get stolen this way.

So if you have a garage, use it. If you don't, you have to weigh the risk of losing your car against the discomfort of being cold for a couple of minutes.

It's not a good idea to leave idling cars unattended in the first place, Altonen says. It can be dangerous and it wastes fuel.

And thieves are out there, counting on it, she adds. They're waiting and observing. Even if the car is locked, it takes mere seconds for a thief to smash in a window and open the door. With the keys in the ignition, they have a getaway vehicle at the ready.

"If you do it regularly, and your car hasn't been stolen yet, you've just been lucky."

People should also remember to keep valuables out of their car, says Joanne Paul, crime prevention specialist. The Golden Valley Police Department has seen an increase in theft from automobiles—briefcases, wallets, purses, cell phones, GPS units, and laptop computers. They are occurring at any time of day in parking lots, driveways, and on the street. In many cases the vehicles had been left unlocked.

Do what you can. Don't leave valuables in your car. Write down the serial numbers of your valuables so they can be tracked if stolen. And keep your keys in your possession. 

Steps For Safer Holiday Driving

Thanksgiving to New Year's is one of the deadliest times of year for alcohol-related crashes. MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) estimates that drunk driving crashes over the holidays kill more than 1,000 people nationally each year. Keep these tips in mind as you celebrate this season:

- If you drink, don't drive, no matter how little you think you have had.
- Designate a driver before you arrive at an event or party.
- If hosting a party, set rules on drinking and driving. Offer to provide rides home or a place for guests who drink to sleep.
- If possible, avoid driving during early and late evening hours on major holidays. Always wear a safety belt.
- Wear a red ribbon during the holidays to increase awareness of the drinking and driving problem. 



Keep your keys in your possession. Fight the temptation to let your car sit unattended to warm up.



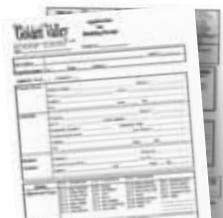
Save Time & Money By Getting Project Permits



Each year the City of Golden Valley issues thousands of permits for property improvements. Projects range from simple maintenance items to extensive remodeling, additions, or new buildings. Permits ensure projects are up to code and meet minimum requirements for safety and material.

How Many Permits Will My Project Require?

The number of permits and the types of inspections vary based on the project. Some may require a single inspection when the work is completed while others may require several inspections as the work progresses. With each project, City officials determine what inspections are required to ensure compliance with state building code (inspection fees are included in the cost of the permits).



Getting your permits now will save you headaches later.

How Long Is My Permit Valid?

It's important to remember that permits are valid for 180 days, according to the state building code. That's how long you have to finish your project or get to the next permit stage. If you do not complete the necessary work in the allotted time, the project will be deemed suspended or abandoned, meaning you'll have to obtain another permit and pay a new permit fee to continue work.

To determine the status of various permits, City inspectors do an annual review of permits issued. All projects require a final inspection when the work has been completed. Unfortunately, some permit holders fail to request this final inspection, which results in a permit becoming invalid and a new one needing to be issued. A project will not be deemed code compliant without a final inspection, potentially resulting in additional fees, not to mention hassles if or when you try to sell your home.

Keep in mind that if you hire a professional to work on your property, it's a good idea to request verification of final inspection before making payment. If you're doing the work yourself, be sure to call for your final inspection to close out your permit—it could save you a headache in the future if you decide to sell your home.

Plan Ahead For Next Spring's Projects

If you have a building project planned this spring, get your permit now. Don't wait until the last minute, or you might need to delay the project by a month or more. Permit processing may take several weeks. For more information, call the Golden Valley Inspections Department at 763-593-8090.

PROJECTS that need PERMITS

- construction of a new dwelling
- construction of a shed greater than 120 square feet
- construction of garages or room additions
- construction of a deck, porch, or gazebo
- construction of a swimming pool
- reroofing or residing a house or garage
- window replacement
- furnace, air conditioning, or water heater replacement
- drain tile installation
- fireplace, chimney, or wood stove installation
- in-floor heating system installation
- new installations and alterations to the plumbing system
- alterations or repairs to electrical systems
- finishing the lower level or a room in the basement
- interior remodeling
- building retaining walls more than 48 inches higher than grade

Call Inspections at 763-593-8090 to find out if your project requires a permit.

Rental Properties Must Be Licensed

The City of Golden Valley requires all landlords of single-family rented property to apply for rental licenses. The licensing requirement helps ensure that rented homes are maintained to code for the health and safety of occupants. It also helps City inspectors know who to contact when they see a violation at a rented property, which expedites the repair process. And it gives police a better idea of who to deal with when there's a crime at a rented home.

The City instituted single-family rental licensing in 2007, when property maintenance inspectors noticed a disproportionate amount of housing maintenance violations occurred in homes being rented out, says Golden Valley Property Maintenance Inspector Josh Kunde. The ordinance requires rented homes to undergo periodic exterior inspections (which are done for every home) as well as interior inspections. "Before that, the City kept no record of which single-family homes were rented out and which were not," says Kunde.

The rental property licensing ordinance applies both to homeowners who are already renting out a house as well as homeowners planning to. Properties are inspected (inside and outside) once every three years.

"We'd like to see all property owners maintain and keep reinvesting in their properties, whether they live in them or not," says Kuhnly.

Rental licenses are also required for multi-dwelling buildings and apartments.

The rental license amendment is an extension of City Ordinance 4.60 and may be viewed Monday–Friday, 8 am–4:30 pm, at Golden Valley City Hall. If you have questions about the ordinance, contact Kunde at 763-593-8074.

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

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



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.



TOYS FOR TOTS

Join Police In Gift Drive

Community members are welcome to once again join the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) in a unique approach to the Toys for Tots donation effort.

For the 15th consecutive year, the GVPD will lead regional law enforcement agencies in a toy drive that culminates in a loud, colorful parade. On the last collection day, police from as many as 20 departments load their cruisers with donated gifts and meet at the GVPD. Then, lights blazing, they caravan to the KARE 11 Toys for Tots drop-off site. In past years the effort garnered thousands of toys.

Between Dec 1 and 21 (at 3 pm), bring new, unwrapped toys to the GVPD at 7800 Golden Valley Road (open 24 hours a day). Don't forget gifts for older kids and teens. For more information, contact Sgt Steve Johnson at 763-512-2505.

Support Crime Prevention, Support Your Community

Golden Valley is a safe place to live. This is due, in no small part, to the Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund, which works with the police department to build strong community partnerships by providing financial support for crime prevention and safety programs. Run by citizen volunteers, this private, nonprofit organization is supported by Golden Valley businesses and residents who understand that safety and security are critical factors in thriving communities.

Golden Valley's crime prevention programs include Safety Camps (safety education for second-, third-, and fourth-graders and 4-, 5-, and 6-year-olds), CounterACT (drug and violence prevention for fifth-graders), Public Safety Awareness (a safety and citizenship curriculum for fifth-graders), and Masters Safety Camp (an opportunity for local seniors and public safety personnel to meet on a non-emergency basis to discuss safety issues important to senior citizens). Other programs include Minnesota's Night To Unite, Neighborhood Watch, Cyber-Watch, Community Crime Prevention Updates, and the I-394 Virtual Block Club. The Crime Prevention Fund also provides rewards for information in serious criminal cases.

Contributions are the Crime Prevention Fund's only source of revenue, and demands on funds have never been greater. Please consider how your tax deductible contribution can help our programs, and the community, be stronger and more vibrant. For more information, call 763-593-8054 or email cpfund@ci.golden-valley.mn.us.



Junior Safety Camp is one of many programs supported by the Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund.

City of
Golden Valley

7800 Golden Valley Rd
763-593-8000
TTY: 763-593-3968
www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us

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