

# Golden Valley

## CITYNEWS

### City Asks State Legislature To Review Laws

Every year the Golden Valley City Council puts together a list of issues for the Minnesota State Legislature to consider in hopes the lawmakers will review sections of the law and provide changes that will help Golden Valley. For 2010, the Council asked the Legislature to look at the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services' (MCES) inflow and infiltration policies as well as the State's fiscal disparities formula.



#### MCES Inflow And Infiltration Policies

More than 100 metro area communities own and operate local sewer systems that are connected to the regional interceptor system. In 2009, at least 32 of these communities were experiencing problems with excess inflow and infiltration (I/I).

I/I allows clear water (ground and storm) into sanitary sewer pipes where it eventually gets treated, unnecessarily, at wastewater treatment plants. I/I also uses sewer pipe capacity needed for wastewater throughout the region and can cause sewage backups in homes and spillages into regional waterways. If I/I issues are not addressed through repairs to local and private infrastructure, additional sewer capacity will be needed at a cost currently projected to be nearly \$1 billion. By contrast, MCES estimates that addressing the problem locally will cost \$150 million. If excess inflow and infiltration is not addressed, the potential for impaired waters is increased.

To reduce I/I, MCES will institute a demand charge in 2013 on cities determined to be contributing unacceptable amounts of I/I to the wastewater treatment system. Currently, 46 cities, including Golden Valley, have been identified as excessive I/I contributors. This number is subject to change, depending on rain events, and any city in the metropolitan area could be affected.

Since 2007, Golden Valley  
*(continued on page 2)*



### Mark Your Calendar: Golden Valley Days

- ☼ Friday, May 21, 6–10 pm, Brookview Park
- ☼ Saturday, May 22, 9:30 am–10 pm, City Hall Campus

Celebrate Golden Valley and its creative community spirit at the seventh 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 website 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 [www.goldenvalleymusic.org](http://www.goldenvalleymusic.org).

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# Water Conservation Tips for Spring & Summer



Spring and summer is when many Golden Valley residents see big jumps in their water utility bills, often due to increased use of water for lawn sprinkling. The following water conservation tips will help ease the impact on the environment and your pocketbook.

- Adjust sprinklers so only the lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street. Try to water every third day at most, and avoid watering on windy days, at peak hours of sunlight, or after a heavy rain. Watering at peak hours, or on windy days means much of the water will evaporate before it ever hits the lawn. If you are manually watering, be attentive and move the sprinklers around.
- Avoid watering during the peak water consumption hours of 4 to 9 pm.
- Raise your lawn mower blade to at least three inches high. Closely cut grass makes the roots work harder, requiring more water.
- Test your soil moisture. Not all lawns are alike. Some absorb and retain water better than others. Your lawn might need watering only once a week. To find out when and when not to water, give your lawn a quick soil test with a moisture meter (which can be purchased for around \$15).
- Choose the right automatic sprinkler system to fit your lawn size and configuration. Install good quality sprinkler heads that provide a low precipitation rate and keep them in good repair. Check sprinkler heads frequently for proper direction and even spray pattern. Studies show that automatic sprinkler systems often use 20 to 30 percent more water than hand-held hose watering. Applying the right amount of water is possible with a well-designed in-ground sprinkler system, but it requires careful management. Minnesota law requires rain sensors on all newly installed automatic sprinkler systems. Sensors turn off sprinklers when it rains, cutting down on wasted water (and wasted money).

For more information, go to [www.irrigation.org](http://www.irrigation.org), [www.waterwiser.org](http://www.waterwiser.org) or [www.mwra.com/comsupport/conservation/gardeningtips.htm](http://www.mwra.com/comsupport/conservation/gardeningtips.htm).

# Legislative Policies

(continued from page 1)

has spent \$6 million on public infrastructure improvements and other activities to reduce I/I. In addition, private property owners in Golden Valley have spent an estimated \$4 million on repairs to sanitary sewer services, predominantly to address I/I issues.

"The City recognizes the importance of eliminating I/I, and we're recognized by the MCES as a leader in the I/I reduction program," says Jeff Oliver, city engineer. "However, we've found that during our point of sale inspection program, approximately 88 percent of the properties failed the inspection and the sewer services needed rehabilitation. The average cost of rehabilitation is \$3,600, but costs range from \$500 to approximately \$10,000."

MCES is requesting \$14 million in capital bonding for grants for metro area cities to mitigate I/I problems in municipal wastewater collection systems. Cities eligible for I/I mitigation grants would be required to match each grant dollar. Mitigating I/I at the local level will cost much less than at the regional level, but cities will need financial assistance.

The City of Golden Valley is asking that demand charges not be imposed against cities that have an active and MCES-approved I/I reduction program. The City also recommends implementation of a demand charge be delayed until:

- verifiable benchmarks can be established so the progress of I/I reduction efforts can be measured (recent dry weather conditions do not allow for an accurate measurement of I/I reduction efforts)
- state financial assistance can be established to reduce the burden of local utilities

The City also supports including MCES's requested \$14 million in capital bonding authorization to fund grants for metro area cities to mitigate I/I problems in municipal wastewater collection systems.

## Fiscal Disparities

Since enacted in 1971 and implemented in 1975, Fiscal Disparities has required cities to share a portion of their commercial and industrial tax base growth with other jurisdictions. The contribution amount is based on the relative fiscal capacity of each community, which is measured by the market value per capita. Because Golden Valley has a high fiscal capacity, it contributes more to the pool than it receives. In 2010, Golden Valley will contribute \$4,826,466 in net tax capacity.

The City of Golden Valley supports revising the fiscal disparities formula. Additionally, the City of Golden Valley supports a comprehensive study of fiscal disparities to evaluate how it is meeting its original intent and whether revisions to the law are in order.

If you have questions about fiscal disparities, contact Finance Director Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010 or [svirnig@ci.golden-valley.mn.us](mailto:svirnig@ci.golden-valley.mn.us). 



## Garden Club Community Project



The Golden Valley Garden Club is working with the City of Golden Valley to convert an existing garden on the southeast corner of Winsdale St and Mendelssohn Ave N into a public demonstration garden. About 15 years ago, local resident Don Brown planted two 10- by 30-foot garden beds at the site and was able to maintain them for some years, but he now wants to retire.

The GV Garden Club will plan and plant low-water and low-maintenance gardens there and then track how well the plants and gardening techniques do. The community is invited to check out the process and copy successes in their own gardens.

For more information about the Golden Valley Garden Club, go to <http://sites.google.com/a/tcq.net/golden-valley-garden-club/>.

# Set Your Sights For The Views of the Valley Contest

Snapshots of heartwarming moments of community spirit, portraits of everyday life seen from a fresh perspective, and freeze frames of nature areas, parks, and public spaces—it's all in front of your eyes. You just need to capture it.

Framing the beauty of Golden Valley with a single shot takes a special photographic talent, a talent you can share and celebrate through the 2010 *Views of the Valley* photo contest. The 18th 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/](http://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 7, 2010, 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.



## 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 7, 2010, 4:30 pm.**



2009 Overall Grand Prize:  
"Just Hanging Around"  
by Elena Bursch

## 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 website and in *CityNews*, \$25, and a certificate of appreciation.

All photo entries will be displayed at City Hall and on the City website. 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](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us). Winners will be notified in early July.

## 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.**

## RECYCLE Old Cell Phones

More than 125 million cell phones are discarded every year, making them one of the fastest growing forms of electronic waste. Because they contain hazardous components that are harmful to human health and the environment, they don't belong in the trash. Instead, donate or recycle them.



The Wireless Foundation coordinates national programs that collect cell phones to help American communities. Learn more at [www.wirelessfoundation.org](http://www.wirelessfoundation.org).

Many cell phone retailers, service providers, and manufacturers accept cell phones for recycling. Learn more at [RethinkRecycling.com](http://RethinkRecycling.com) and [www.call2recycle.org](http://www.call2recycle.org).

Hennepin County collects electronics, including cell phones, laptops, and other mobile devices that contain memory, at county drop-off facilities in Bloomington and Brooklyn Park. For more information, call 612-348-3777 or visit [www.hennepin.us/electronics](http://www.hennepin.us/electronics).

Before reusing or recycling your phone, remember to remove your personal data and fully discharge the battery.

## 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, Jun 5   |
| July 4       | Fri, July 9  |
| Labor Day    | Sat, Sept 11 |
| Thanksgiving | Sat, Nov 27  |
| Christmas    | Fri, Dec 24  |
| New Year's   | Fri, Dec 31  |

### 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.

# Spring Brush Pick-Up To Take Place In May

Spring has arrived, and with it comes Golden Valley's annual residential *Spring Brush Pick-Up*. The pick-up, running from May 3 to May 21, gives you the opportunity to place tree limbs and brush at your curb for collection and disposal.

## 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.** If there is a lot of brush, pick-up may take longer than a week.

**Section 1**— Area south of Hwy 55—week of May 3

**Section 2**— Area north of Hwy 55 and west of Douglas Dr—week of May 10

**Section 3**— Area north of Hwy 55 and east of Douglas Dr—week of May 17

## Guidelines

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

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

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*.

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 or visit [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/SpringBrushPickUp.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/SpringBrushPickUp.htm).



A properly stacked brush pile in Golden Valley.

# Emerald Ash Borer Inventory Under Way



photo by Iowa State University Extension

This February, the destructive Emerald Ash Borer beetle was discovered in Minneapolis, meaning it's only a matter of time before it turns up in Golden Valley. Communities throughout the region have been scrambling to develop management plans specific to their area.

As a first step to tackling the problem, Golden Valley officials have begun recording the number of ash trees in the city and their locations. This comprehensive inventory, which will take note of all tree varieties and is scheduled to be completed by the end of May, is unlike anything the City has done before, says Al Lundstrom, environmental coordinator. It's the first time Golden Valley will have a complete record of its public tree populations. It will help City foresters identify areas with high density ash populations and move forward with maintenance options.

The Emerald Ash Borer beetle has killed tens of millions of ash trees where it has been discovered. Minnesota has about 870 million ash trees, one of the largest concentrations of any state in the country. Not only are these trees abundant in our forests, they are also an important component of our urban landscapes. Research has not found any resistance to this Asian beetle in our native ash. The City of Golden Valley is developing an Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan outlining objectives and approaches it will use to meet the anticipated impact of this pest on the urban forest.

“It's the first time Golden Valley will have a complete inventory of its public trees.”

The detailed inventory of all ash trees located in City parks and nature areas will include the public golf course, along road right-of-ways, and on other publicly owned properties.

The inventory may lead to modifications to the City's tree ordinance. For example, communities that have experience with the beetle have had to develop a plan to address a significant amount of standing dead ash trees on private property that may become hazards.

If there's any silver lining to the EAB crisis, it's that an official inventory of Golden Valley trees will help City staff deal with forestry issues independent of the problem at hand, Lundstrom says. “We can find out if we've planted too many of one kind of tree, or not enough of another. And we can develop better plans for tree trimming needs.”

The City will attempt to spread the costs associated with the outbreak of the Emerald Ash Borer over approximately five to 15 years. The Emerald Ash Borer was first discovered in North America in southeast Michigan in 2002. It has since been found in Ohio, Indiana, Maryland, Illinois, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Missouri, Virginia, Kentucky, New York, and in the Canadian provinces Ontario and Quebec.

If you suspect an infestation near your home, visit the Minnesota Department of Agriculture Web site at [www.mda.state.mn.us](http://www.mda.state.mn.us) and use the “Do I Have Emerald Ash Borer?” checklist. The site will also provide you with treatment methods.

# City To Hear Water Pollution Control Plan

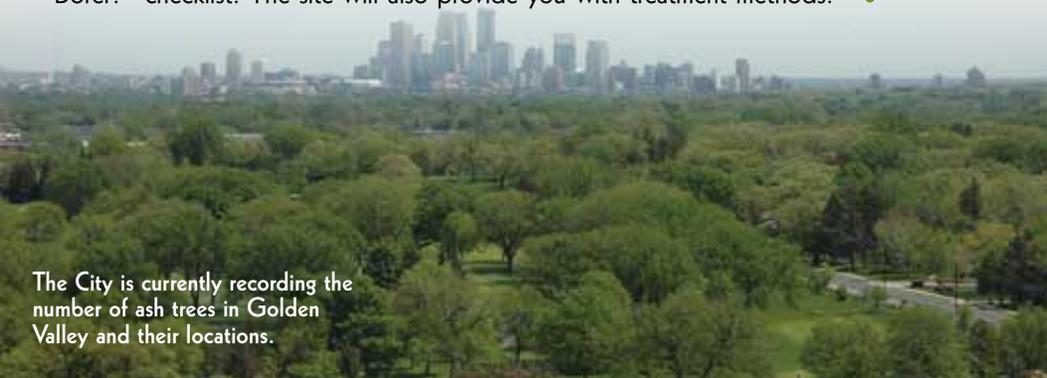
Every year the City of Golden Valley is required to report on how it is managing storm water that comes from overland flow—water that does not originate from a single pipe—to reduce pollution. The process is called the Phase II National Pollution and Discharge Elimination System, and it requires significant planning by the City, including a public meeting with the City Council (this year set for June 15 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 15 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](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us). For more information, contact Lundstrom at 763-593-8046.



The City is currently recording the number of ash trees in Golden Valley and their locations.

## 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](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us)).

### YOUTH PROGRAMS

**Kids' Club** (ages 3–5)—New classes start April 5 and 6. Mon and Wed or Tue and Thur, 9:30–11 am. Brookview Community Center, \$38/12 classes.

**Indoor Nerf Soccer**—Thursdays, April 8–May 20, 6 or 7 pm, \$30.

**Art Skool**—Cartoon Characters, April 16 and 23, 11:45–12:45 pm, \$28.

**Pre-School Playtime**—Fridays through April 23, 10–11:30 pm, Brookview Community Center, \$3 per child.

**Mom & Me Spa Day**—Saturday, May 1, 1:15–3:15 pm, Brookview Community Center, \$36 per pair.

### ADULT PROGRAMS

**Tae Kwon Do**—Tue, April 6–May 11, 6–6:45 pm, Brookview Community Center, \$56.

**Yoga**—Tue, April 6–May 25, 11 am–noon, Brookview Community Center, \$56.

**Line Dancing**—Wed, April 14–May 26, 6:30–8 pm, Brookview Community Center, \$56.

**Yoga & Pilates**—Tue, May 4–June 15, 5:30–6:40 pm, Brookview Community Center, \$70.

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



# GV Park Programs Popular All Around

Jim Williams has worked with Golden Valley's Park and Recreation youth programs longer than anyone else on staff. A seasonal employee who has coached, instructed, and lead youth programs for 27 summers, Williams sees no reason to quit any time soon.

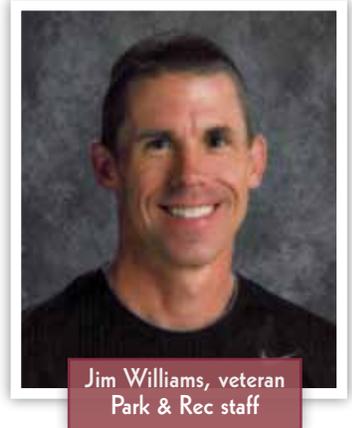
"I can't get this out of my blood," he says. "I'm pretty sure I've worked here longer than any seasonal employee in the history of Golden Valley. I keep coming back because it's so much fun."

Staff commitment, and the fact that so many seasonal employees return year after year, is one reason Golden Valley's youth recreation programs are so successful, he adds.

"We're really lucky we retain so many of our seasonal employees," Williams says. "We have a good reputation and we draw good candidates. The average seasonal employee holds the job for five years. If you love working with kids, it's an ideal setting."

Kevin Barlow, a playground leader and coach during the summer, agrees. He got involved in Golden Valley's youth programs as a kid, playing t-ball, fall soccer, baseball, and winter basketball. He started as an employee at age 15. Over the last nine years he has coached all the same sports he played as a child.

"It's a great experience," he says. "I've met a lot of great families in the City, and it's a great place to work."



Jim Williams, veteran  
Park & Rec staff

### PROGRAMS Build COMMUNITY

While Golden Valley's park and rec programs may be popular among staff, there's no doubt they've been a hit with parents and children. To some, the programs are what make this a stand-out community, says Brian Erickson, recreation supervisor.

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

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

"We select the kinds of programs we offer for different reasons," Erickson says. "We look at trends and listen to participants on their likes and dislikes." And because of the relatively low cost to participate, no one is left out, he adds.

To guarantee a spot in any of the programs, register early.

"We get a lot of repeat costumers," Williams says. "They don't know how good they have it. So many other cities have nothing like this. It's a fun, safe environment for kids, and the program leaders are so enthusiastic."



Soccer photo by Susan Walto,  
2007 Views of the Valley

For more on upcoming recreation programs and for contact information, see the Recreation Opportunities sidebar at left, or visit [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us) and click on Parks, Recreation & Leisure. 



# Community Launches Neighbors Helping Neighbors

A new collaborative program among the City of Golden Valley and local church and volunteer groups is setting out to help homeowners in need.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors lends a hand to homeowners in Golden Valley who can't do crucial home repairs because of financial or physical challenges. The collaboration between PRISM (People Responding In Social Ministry), Calvary Lutheran Church, Valley Community Presbyterian Church, and the City of Golden Valley, with additional help from HOME Northwest, focuses on tying effective programs together so fewer people fall through the cracks.

It started with Bridge Builder DeDe Scanlon, who was concerned about residents who are having trouble keeping their homes up to code. Scanlon knew that local churches had programs to help members with housing maintenance and that they similarly did mission work in other parts of the country. She brought interested parties together in 2009 to create this pilot program. Still in its early stages, the collaborators want to extend a helping hand to low-income homeowners who would otherwise be unable to maintain their homes.

All of the necessary collaborators are in place, says Elizabeth Johnson, PRISM executive director. PRISM will work with Golden valley to identify homeowners in need, and turn to the church groups for volunteer support.

Volunteers would help residents with a range of projects, from painting to minor carpentry to lawn maintenance. Funding sources are still being sought to cover costs of building materials and to hire contractors for areas of repair requiring contracted labor, such as roofing, Johnson says.

"We want to make sure the citizens and homeowners know there are people who want to volunteer their time, to let them know there is hope," she explains. "We'd really like to see more homeowners contact us for help. We know they're out there."

**If you're a homeowner who feels Neighbors Helping Neighbors could be useful for you, contact PRISM at 763-529-1350, and specifically mention the program.** Your eligibility will be determined by an application process.

"So far, only a handful have taken advantage," Johnson says. "Either they aren't yet aware of the program, or they're a little hesitant. It's a good collaboration and we need to get the word out. We're hoping it's going to take off."

This program is part of the City's ongoing Bridge Builder efforts, Andre says. Bridge Builders is an Envision Connection Project program that brings individuals or groups together 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.

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

*If you could benefit from Neighbors Helping Neighbors, call PRISM at 763-529-1350 and mention the program.*

## Senior Stuff

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

### Pedal Pushers Bicycle Group

April 6, 10 am. Join Nancy as we plan our 2010 season and unveil the new Pedal Pushers T-shirt. Register by April 2.

### TAX ASSISTANCE

April 8 & 15, 9 am—noon. First-come, first-served help to seniors with uncomplicated income taxes. Bring all information needed to file. AARP volunteers attend training but are not professional tax accountants. Register at the door at 8:15 am.

### SENIOR SPRING FORUM

April 14, 8:30 am—noon, Brooklyn Park Community Center, 5600 85th Ave N. Presentations and more than 45 informational booths. Sponsored by NW Hennepin Human Services Council and Senior Leadership Committee. FREE! Register by April 7 at 763-503-2520.

### MONEY MATTERS

April 15, 10 am: "Reading Stock Charts for Buy and Sell Signals," by Larry Klick. Donation accepted for refreshments.

### BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

April 21, 11—11:30 am, free. Provided by the staff from Ambassador Good Samaritan Care Center.

### COFFEE TALK

April 28: "Zoey's Story," 9:45 am, \$2 at door. Register at least one day in advance.

### SENIOR GOLF PAR 3 LEAGUE Kick-Off

April 29, 9:30 am. \$5 league registration will be taken that day.

### TODAY'S NEWS MEDIA: WHO CAN WE TRUST

Frank Wright, former StarTribune associate editor, Washington bureau chief, managing editor, and foreign correspondent. May 5, 6 pm, Golden Valley Library, 830 Winnetka Ave N. Register by April 30.

**Golden Valley Seniors Program**  
**Brookview Community Center**  
 200 Brookview Parkway  
 Golden Valley, MN 55426  
 763-512-2339

8 am—5 pm, Monday—Friday



# Budgets, Priorities Determine Winter Sidewalk & Trail Maintenance, Safety

Considering how extensive Golden Valley's trail and sidewalk system is today, it may be hard to believe that before 1970, Golden Valley did not have a single trail or sidewalk, says Eric Eckman, public works specialist.

Today, 15 percent of Golden Valley's 10.5 square miles is dedicated to parks and open space, with 49 miles of trails and sidewalks. The trail system is now a crucial part of the city and a major facilitator of Golden Valley's active-living priorities.

In the early 1970s, a safety committee made up of area residents and City officials reviewed how a sidewalk and trail system would benefit Golden Valley. The committee established construction standards and priorities, setting in motion a long-term plan focused on making the community pedestrian-friendly.

It was a radical idea for the City at the time, Eckman says, adding that, today, it's hard to imagine Golden Valley without trails and sidewalks.

## Planning And Maintenance

Maintaining current trails and planning future trail development is an ongoing process the City takes very seriously, Eckman says. The City's Trail and Sidewalk System Plan helps identify needs and develop long-term goals and program improvements. According to Golden Valley's Comprehensive Plan, another 17 miles of trails and sidewalks are planned for construction.

The level and speed of winter maintenance varies based on a trail's location and primary use. Trails used mostly for recreation are lower priorities than trails and sidewalks used to connect



## Non City-Owned Trails

In addition to City-owned trails, Golden Valley's location provides easy access to the regional trail system operated by Three Rivers Park District (Luce Line Trail) and the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (trails through Theodore Wirth Parkway).

The Luce Line Regional trail, which runs through Golden Valley just north of Hwy 55, is maintained by the Three Rivers Park District, an organization independent of the City. It connects to the western metro area and the Minnesota DNR-owned Luce Line State trail as well as to the Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway trail system at Theodore Wirth Park in Minneapolis.



# ter ety Plan

businesses, schools, churches, and bus stops, Eckman says. Priority one and two trails are typically plowed within 24 hours after it has stopped snowing. Priority three trails are typically plowed between 48 and 72 hours after a 2-inch snowfall. In times of extreme snowfall, trails and sidewalks will not always immediately be cleared.

Due to personnel and equipment limitations, trail and sidewalk maintenance is done after the streets have been plowed.

The City does not use salt and sand or other chemical de-icers on its sidewalks or trails, except in the City Hall Campus. The City encourages residents' help in clearing sidewalks, particularly around fire hydrants and for elderly or disabled neighbors who can't do it themselves. (For more on sidewalk safety, see sidebar on page 14.)

**The level and speed of winter maintenance varies based on a trail's location and primary use.**





Photo by Peter Gierness, 2006 Views of the Valley

# Change In 911 Dispatch Won't Affect Residents

The City of Golden Valley is considering changing its 911 emergency call dispatch center location, but the change would have no effect on the residents' end, says Police Chief Stacy Altonen.

"If you call 911 within Golden Valley, the response time will be the same," she adds. "On our end, it's just a procedural thing."

Golden Valley's 911 dispatch services have been run through St Louis Park's dispatch center since 1995. The City is looking at changing to Hennepin County's dispatch center mostly for budgetary reasons, Altonen says. Dispatch costs for 2010 will be \$305,000, and it has been as high as \$337,000 in other years. Hennepin County has not yet decided how much it will charge the City, but it does not charge any of the cities it currently dispatches for.

The City is still waiting for approval from Hennepin County. If Golden Valley is not approved, its dispatch services could possibly remain in St Louis Park. A decision should be made sometime this spring, Altonen says.



## GET ON YOUR BIKES AND RIDE

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

*Bike Rodeo*  
**Wednesday, May 5**  
**6-8 pm**  
**Golden Valley City Hall**  
**7800 Golden Valley Rd**

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.



# Masters Safety Seminar

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

**Tuesday, April 13, 2010**

**6 - 9 pm**

Golden Valley Public Safety Building  
7800 Golden Valley Rd

### Learn about...

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

Includes dinner, complimentary gifts, and other giveaways.

**RSVP today!** Space is limited.

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





# Years Of Service Awards Recognize Sacrifice

The Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) recently held the first of what is planned to be an annual awards event for its paid on-call firefighters.

"It's a way to show appreciation to the selfless men and women who make extraordinary sacrifices on behalf of the citizens and the community they serve," says Fire Chief Mark Kuhnly.

Nearly 40 firefighters were recognized at the Years Of Service Awards ceremony held earlier this year. They were recognized for 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25 or more years of service. Two firefighters were recognized for almost 30 years on the job—Mark Rocznik (29 years) and John Crelly (29 years)—and one, Brian Foran, was recognized for 33 years of service (see sidebar for full list).

*"If you sit down at Christmas dinner, and the call comes out, you have to leave your family. The Years Of Service awards highlight and recognize these sacrifices."*

"To become a paid on-call firefighter, and then commit to it, is a huge sacrifice on that individual's part," says Stephen Baker, fire education specialist. "The dedication over the long haul is immense."

"Paid on-call firefighters always have to be ready to go, ready to answer the call when it comes," Baker adds. "If you sit down at Christmas dinner, and the call comes out, you have to leave your family. The Years Of Service awards highlight and recognize these sacrifices."

"It's real important that we take an extra step to recognize that these people are going above and beyond what's expected of them in the community," Baker says.

Those who hit the 25-year mark are designated as life members of the GVFD and receive a leather fire helmet.

"We come from different walks of life, different experiences. There are certain things we're good at, things we learn as we go, things we learn from each other," says Foran, who works a day job with Indelco Plastics Corp and has served on the GVFD since he was 19. "And you really feel like you've been part of something that's positive for the community."



## Service Award RECIPIENTS

### 5–10 Years

Brian Shorten • Andy Hutson • Scott Shoemaker • Matthew Preston • Michael Pellizzer • Bryan Magnuson, Lieutenant • Ryan Johnson • Doug Soderling, Lieutenant • Mike Trebesch • Steve Baker, Fire Education Specialist • Jason Hoffrogge

### 10–15 Years

George Oswald • Brian Crow, Lieutenant • Ken Bence, Captain • Jennifer Toavs • Gregg Prest • Thomas Ruble • Dave Laumeyer • Christopher Gemlo

### 15–20 Years

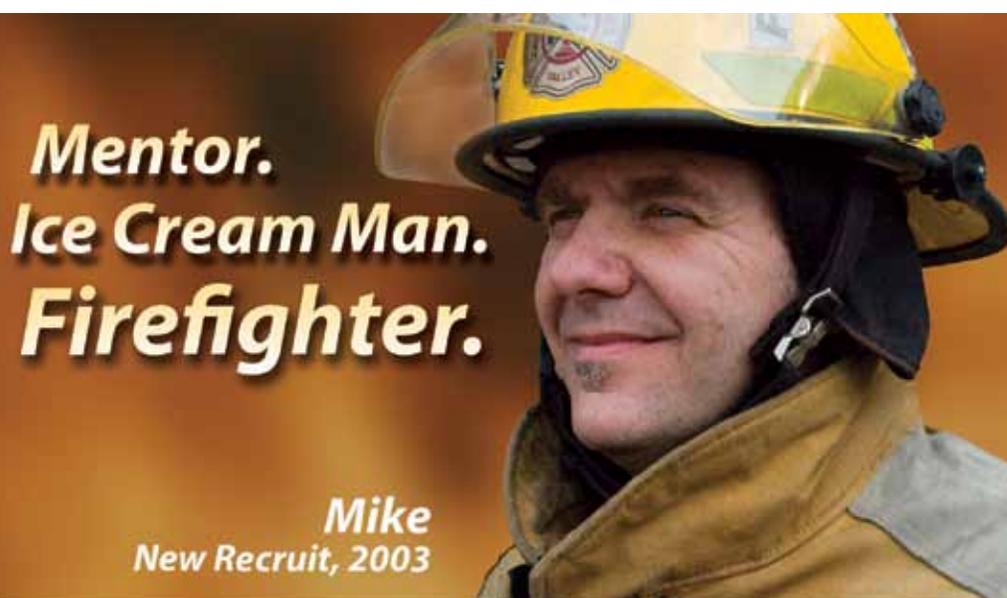
Steve Staack • Paul Steinman • Mark Rosenblum, Lieutenant • LouAnn Forseth • Steve Yingst • David Koski • David Comb • Dave Gustafson • Bernie Vrona • Donald Anderson, Lieutenant • Joel Murphy, Captain • Dean Crawford, Lieutenant

### 20–25 Years

Tim Gerrits, Battalion Chief • Gary Gustner, Captain • Ed Anderson, Deputy Fire Marshal • Mark Kuhnly, Fire Chief

### More Than 25 Years

Mark Rocznik • John Crelly, Battalion Chief • Brian Foran.



**Mentor.  
Ice Cream Man.  
Firefighter.**

**Mike**  
New Recruit, 2003

[goldenvalleyfire.com](http://goldenvalleyfire.com)

BACK IN THE '70s, MIKE PELLIZZER tried to join the Minneapolis Fire Department right out of high school, but he didn't make the cut. "Didn't do well on the testing," he says. So he went on to other things. He co-founded a successful ice cream shop called Sebastian Joe's. He moved to Golden Valley. He started a family. It wasn't until after his kids got a few years older and his life a little more settled that Pellizzer thought to revisit his early ambition of becoming a firefighter.

"I was 47 years old," he says, "and everyone around me was in their mid 20s or early 30s, so I was a bit nervous. But I realized you don't have to be young to join. It's been a wonderful experience and a neat adventure."

"It's also another way to give back to the community," he adds, "and that's a good example I'm able to pass on to my kids."

## 2010 PMP Ready To Roll

This spring the City of Golden Valley will kick off its 2010 Pavement Management Program (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 is scheduled to start in May.

Residents in PMP project areas receive regular construction updates from the City. Those updates are also offered electronically via GV DirectConnect, the City's email subscription service. To subscribe, go to [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us).

## STEP-TO-IT CHALLENGE



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.

The 2010 challenge is scheduled for May 18 through June 14. Participants use pedometers or walking charts to note the number of steps taken, then record that number on the Step To It website ([www.steptoit.org](http://www.steptoit.org)). Other activities, such as biking, skateboarding, basketball, Tai Chi, or even just lawn mowing, will also count toward overall steps.

[www.steptoit.org](http://www.steptoit.org)

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.

Step-To-It is sponsored this year by the Minnesota Twins. 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.

## Street Sweeping Rids Streets Of Sand, Salt

After a snowy winter, the melt often reveals more crud than usual in the streets. Golden Valley's street sweeping program helps keep that crud from clogging area catch basins and, ultimately, local waterways. It cleans away the salt and sand of winter to get streets ready for summer.

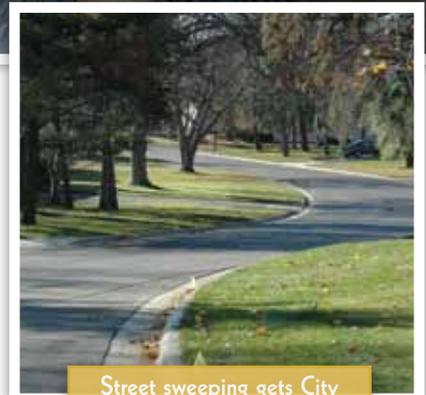
Debris in the streets is an eyesore. It also disrupts the City's street sweeping and pollutes surface water. Debris picks up and carries pollutants (soil, pet waste, oil, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and litter) into the storm water system and area surface waters, such as Bassett Creek. City 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.



Street sweeping gets City streets ready for summer.

## 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

# Workshops To Teach Rain Garden Skills

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 landowners how to install a rain garden using native plants that don't require fertilizers or pesticides and whose long roots help draw the water deep into the soil. Rusty Schmidt, a Minneapolis landscape ecologist, is the key presenter. 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. In a two-hour small group format, they will receive professional advice about their rain gardens from Metro Blooms Landscape Design Assistants and local master gardeners who are trained in landscape design and horticulture. Cost is \$10 per household (limit two members).

Register with a credit card at [metroblooms.org](http://metroblooms.org) or send a \$10 check payable to Metro Blooms, PO Box 17099, Minneapolis, MN 55417. Specify workshop location and include your name, address, zip code, phone number, and e-mail address. See more workshop listings at [metroblooms.org](http://metroblooms.org).

You can also register online at [www.metroblooms.org](http://www.metroblooms.org) or by calling 651-699-2426.



## Rain Garden WORKSHOPS

### Part A Workshops

- **Thur, May 20, 6:30–8:30 pm**  
St Barnabas Church  
15600 Old Rockford Rd, Plymouth
- **Sat, May 25, 6:30–8:30 pm**  
Lucy Craft Laney School  
3333 N Penn Ave, Minneapolis

### Part B Workshops

- **Sat, May 1, 10 am–Noon**  
St. Louis Park Recreation Center  
3700 Monterey Dr
- **Thur, May 27, 6:30–8:30 pm**  
St Barnabas Church  
15600 Old Rockford Rd, Plymouth
- **Tue, June 1, 6:30–8:30 pm**  
Lucy Craft Laney School  
3333 N Penn Ave,  
Minneapolis



## 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. 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.

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.



The City maintains two rain gardens on its campus: one in front of City Hall and one in front of the Public Safety Building.

## Don't Forget

All yardwaste for curbside pickup must be in compostable bags. For details, go to [RethinkRecycling.com](http://RethinkRecycling.com).

## Sidewalk LAWS AND SAFETY Tips

The following facts and tips will help you more safely enjoy local sidewalks and trails.

### Sidewalks

Sidewalks are designed for trips within a localized area or as connections to other areas (for example, between different retailers in shopping centers, between parks and nearby residential areas, and within residential areas for safe walking, running, or socializing). When on a sidewalk, always watch for vehicles backing out of or turning into driveways and watch for icy spots in the winter.



Sidewalks are generally narrower than trails, thus bikers are encouraged to use the street for travel instead (biking on sidewalks in Golden Valley is allowed except in commercial districts). If bikers do use sidewalks, they should yield to pedestrians.

### TRAILS

Trails are intended to handle a wide range of users at the same time. Multi-use trails are often significantly wider than sidewalks, and some are marked with a center stripe to separate opposing directions of travel. Trails generally have fewer access points than sidewalks and provide efficient travel for bike commuters as well as walkers.



When on a trail, keep to the right side and move off the trail if you stop. If overtaking or passing another trail user, make sure to give an audible warning before passing on the left. Slower trail users have the right of way.

Speed limits for bikers vary by trail. For example, speed limits are 10 mph on Theodore Wirth Parkway trails and 15 mph on the Luce Line Trail.

Motorized vehicles (scooters, ATVs, snowmobiles, etc) are not allowed on City or Park District trails in Golden Valley, but local and state laws allow a few exceptions for special types of motorized uses, such as Segway scooters.

For more information, go to [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us), [www.minneapolis-parks.org](http://www.minneapolis-parks.org), or [www.threeriversparkdistrict.org](http://www.threeriversparkdistrict.org).

## Watch For Kids Playing In And Near Streets

As winter gives way to spring, kids rush to play outside, often in the streets near their homes. In their excitement, as they bring out the footballs, skateboards, bikes, hockey pucks, or sidewalk chalk, safety is not always at the top of their minds.

One of the real dangers, says Police Chief Stacy Altonen, is that most streets this time of year are packed, bumper to bumper, with parked cars. Kids, lost in their world of play, sometimes dart out from behind these cars, giving moving vehicles no warning and no time to stop.

And because kids will be kids, Altonen says, most of the responsibility for safety lies with the drivers and the parents.

Drivers have to remember to stay within the speed limit, or go even slower than the speed limit at times of low visibility. One of the most dangerous times for pedestrians and kids playing near streets is sundown, when the day grows darker but sunlight may still be shining in a driver's eyes. This is also a popular time for kids to be playing in the streets.

So keep your eyes open, Altonen says, and turn your lights on.

Drivers often forget to turn their lights on when it's raining, she adds, creating further visibility issues. If it's raining, it's against the law not to have your headlights on.

Parents need to remind kids of the dangers of playing near the street and encourage them as often as possible to stay in the yard, says Altonen. When possible, be outside with them where you can supervise their play.

Of course, it's not always possible to keep your children within eyesight, especially as they grow older, so be sure to talk with them about safety precautions and the dangers of moving vehicles. When walking in the road, it's important they stay on the left side, against traffic. If they're biking, they should be on the right side with traffic. They should use sidewalks whenever possible and only cross streets at designated crosswalks.

A lot of close calls can be avoided with just a little effort on everybody's part, says Altonen.

### STREET CROSSING Tips For Kids

Pedestrian injuries are the second leading cause of unintentional death for children ages five to 14. For children ages nine and under, about 50 to 70 percent of injuries result from darting into the street. Remind children to cross at corners or crosswalks, NOT from between parked cars or from behind bushes.

- Children under age 10 should walk with an adult or older child because they cannot judge the speed or distance of approaching traffic. Also, their peripheral vision is one-third less than that of an adult.
- Choose the safest and most direct route with the fewest street crossings and walk it with your child.
- Teach children to understand and obey traffic signs and crosswalk markings.
- Be a good role model.
- Remind them that once the "Don't Walk" sign starts flashing, they should not begin to cross the street, but that they'll have enough time to get across if they've already started.

For more information about traffic and crosswalk safety, contact the Golden Valley Police Department at 763-593-8058.



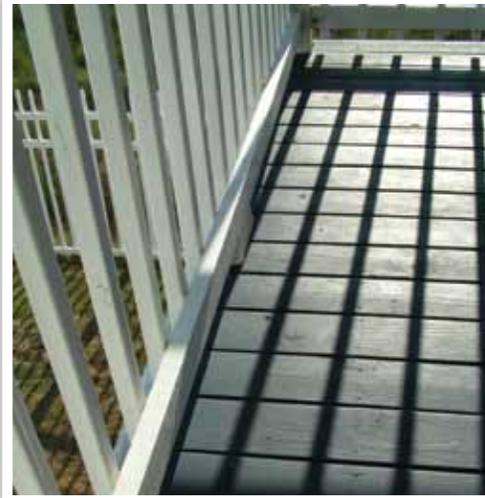
Kids should not play in or near streets, but drivers should always be watching for it.

# Summer Deck Dreams Mean Starting Now

If you have visions of kicking back on your new deck this summer, cool beverage in hand, then now's the time to get started.

## PICTURING YOUR IDEAL DECK

First consider how you want to use your deck. Do you see family and a few close friends lounging on deck chairs, or is the deck covered with everyone you know? How much privacy do you want? Are you imagining a jacuzzi, a table and chairs hooded by an umbrella, a seated bar with a tiki roof, or a yoga platform surrounded by stones? Don't be afraid to dream.



## MAKING YOUR PLANS

Once you know what you want, it's time to see what's really possible. Unless you live on a huge lot, location choices may be limited. In fact, the location is likely fairly obvious, which may require some additional planning. For example, if it's in full sun or the direction of prevailing winds, you may need a sun and/or wind block. Regardless of the location, you must meet setback requirements (distance from the property line).

## MEETING SETBACK REQUIREMENTS

First visit the City's **Inspections Department** to review your street file for information on variances and soil corrections and to verify permits and inspections for the original deck (if you are replacing an old one). If you find that your existing structure and/or the proposed deck do not meet setback requirements, stop by the **Planning Department** on the second floor to apply for a variance. All decks and platforms must meet setback requirements, but decks attached to the home, or decks 30 or more inches above grade, also require building permits.

## GETTING A BUILDING PERMIT

After you determine location specifications, begin the **building permit** process with the Inspections Department by submitting an as-built survey, a site plan showing setbacks, and two complete sets of construction drawings. For a complete list of building permit requirements, call Inspections at 763-593-8090 and ask for a "**Decks Information Sheet**" (see sidebar for code requirement highlights).

## GETTING INSPECTIONS

With building permit in hand, construction can commence. **Inspections** are required at various times throughout construction to ensure that building codes are met, and you must meet three inspection requirements:

1. Post the inspection report card (protect it from weather) on the job site until the final inspection is completed.
2. Notify the City Inspections Department when each phase of the deck is ready for inspection.
3. Schedule the final inspection at least 24 hours in advance.

If you combine a clear vision, a good plan, and safe construction with all necessary permits and inspections in place, you, too, can be living the deck dream. For more information about building a deck, contact the Golden Valley Inspections Department at 763-593-8090. 

## DECKS MUST Follow Code

All deck construction must adhere to the City's building code. Here are a few highlights:

- Frost footings must be at least 42 inches deep and on undisturbed soil.
- Buried posts must be surrounded with granular fill for drainage.
- Decks 30 inches or more above grade require a minimum 36-inch high guardrail. Open guardrails shall have intermediate rails so that a four-inch-diameter sphere cannot pass through.
- Stairways must be at least 36 inches wide with a 7-3/4-inch maximum rise and a 10-inch minimum tread. A four-inch-diameter sphere cannot pass through riser. Handrails and frost footings shall be provided for all stairs having four or more risers. Stair and landing illumination is required.
- Handrails must be graspable and placed not less than 34 inches or more than 38 inches above the nosing of treads.
- All materials used for posts, joists, beams, and decking must be approved treated wood or approved wood of natural resistance to decay, such as cedar, redwood, or composite decking material.
- Not all composite decking materials are approved for use in Minnesota. Check with the Inspections Department for verification.
- All fasteners shall be of approved materials and grades.

For complete information, call the Golden Valley Inspections Department at 763-593-8090 to request a "**Decks Information Sheet**." 

## Call Before You Dig

At least two full business days before you start digging deck footings (or do any digging), call Gopher State One Call at 651-454-0002 or 800-252-1156 ([www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org)) to locate and mark all the utilities on your property.



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.



## Growers of Giant Pumpkins Wanted



Golden Valley's Kelly Drive Pumpkin Growers Association invites you to grow a pumpkin for the 14th Annual Kelly Drive Pumpkin Weigh-off Oct 9. Last year's winner was grown in a Golden Valley resident's backyard and weighed in at more than 800 lbs.

Growing pumpkins is a great way to show off your gardening skills, make friends, have fun, occupy your kids for the summer, and satisfy your competitive spirit. It's also a great way to meet your neighbors, as they will be compelled to strike up a conversation as your pumpkins grow to an enormous size.

Planting begins in May. If you need seeds and or seedlings or want more information, contact Chris Gemlo at 612-990-9595 or Chris@Chris-Gemlo.com. 🍂

*"All For One &  
One Per Vine"*



## RUN THE VALLEY

# Sign Up Now or Race Day

Help the community keep up its pace. Join friends and family April 10 for the 16th annual *Run the Valley* fundraising event, sponsored by the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation. The 10K race and 5K run and walk raises funds for organizations that benefit the community. The certified course runs through residential Golden Valley—water stops and post-race complimentary snacks are provided. Participants will also receive a long-sleeve T-shirt.

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 10, 8:30 am for 5K run, 8:40 am for the 10K run, and 8:45 am for the 5K walk.

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

**How To REGISTER:** Online at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) through April 7. Runners may register in person by Friday, April 9, at Brookview Community Center, 200 Brookview Parkway (M–F, 8 am–4:30 pm; April 8, 8 am–7 pm; April 9, 8:30 am–3 pm). Mailed registrations must be received by Thursday, April 8. Fax entry with Visa/Mastercard information to 763-512-2344, or call 763-512-2345. Register the day of the race by 8 am at the Community Center.

**COST:** Entry fee is \$25 through 3 pm April 9 and \$35 on race day.

For more information, visit [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/runvalley.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/runvalley.htm), or call Park and Recreation at 763-512-2345. 🍂



City of  
**Golden Valley**

7800 Golden Valley Rd  
**763-593-8000**  
TTY: 763-593-3968  
[www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us)

**Mayor/Council Message Line:** 763-593-8001

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