

# Golden Valley

## CityNEWS

### County Denies City's 911 Dispatch Request

At its May 11 meeting, the Hennepin County Board denied Golden Valley's request to have the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office provide the City with 911 dispatching services. The City anticipated the move would save about \$300,000 per year starting in 2011. City officials now plan to begin negotiations with dispatch service providers in nearby cities or neighboring counties.

This is a cost-saving issue, explains City Manager Tom Burt. "In these economic times, we have to look at all avenues to reduce expenditures."

Golden Valley has contracted 911 dispatch services through the City of St Louis Park since 1994. Costs for 2010 are \$305,000 and have been as high as \$337,000. The City began considering a change to Hennepin County's dispatch center in 2008, mostly for budgetary reasons. Hennepin County currently provides dispatching services for 23 law enforcement agencies and 19 fire departments at no cost. Like all county residents, Golden Valley residents already pay for dispatch services through their property taxes.

Golden Valley formally asked to be added to Hennepin County's dispatch center Oct 30, 2009. A Dec 10, 2009 letter from Hennepin County Sheriff Richard Stanek to Golden Valley Police Chief Stacy Altonen said: "We are currently staffed adequately and would be able to provide these services to your city without having to add personnel." Golden Valley then gave notice to St Louis Park Dec 31, 2009.

For budget purposes, the City has asked St Louis Park to provide a contract price for future dispatch services. The City will obtain the same information from other area 911 dispatch service providers.

Regardless of the outcome, Altonen says a dispatch change will have no effect on Golden Valley residents and business. "If you call 911 in Golden Valley, the response time will be the same."

### Concerts in the PARK

Enjoy free concerts in Brookview Park with family, friends, and neighbors most Monday evenings beginning at 7 pm at the large picnic shelter. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs and pack a picnic, or purchase food and beverages from the Brookview Golf Grill. Concerts will take place inside the picnic shelter during light rain and will be canceled in the event of severe weather.



photo by M. Jensen



Concerts will take place inside the picnic shelter during light rain and will be canceled in the event of severe weather.

#### 2010 Schedule

<b>June 14</b> Golden Valley Orchestra	<b>July 19</b> Tubby Esquire (Ice Cream Social)
<b>June 17 (Thurs)</b> Robbinsdale City Band	<b>July 26</b> Celebration Brass
<b>June 21</b> Cathy DeCheine	<b>August 2</b> Lehto & Wright
<b>June 28</b> Gypsy Mania Quartet	<b>August 9</b> Blue Drifters
<b>July 12</b> Stompin' Dixie	<b>August 16</b> Big Walter Smith

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## GVHSF Golf Classic Is July 16

The 2010 Golden Valley Golf Classic will be held Friday, July 16, at Brookview Golf Course. The Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF) hosts the annual event to benefit local charities, and it distributes 100 percent of funds raised to causes directly serving the Golden Valley community (see story on page 3).



### Join The Party

The tournament begins with an 8 am shotgun start. Foursomes can register for \$300 before July 9 or \$350 after (includes fees, cart, continental breakfast, lunch, and a chance to win prizes). Or, bring a second foursome for \$500 total (both foursomes must register together).

### Support The Cause

Prefer the role of booster? You can support the GVHSF and this event in several ways:

- Corporate Sponsor (\$1,000)
- Golf Hole Sponsor (\$500)
- Food/Prizes/Awards: Contributions of cash, merchandise, and in-kind items or gift certificates are welcome for hole contests, prizes, and drawings.

For their donations, sponsors receive green fees, cart, continental breakfast, and lunch for golfers, and their company name displayed on a tee marker. All sponsors are acknowledged in tournament publicity. As of mid-May, sponsors for 2010 include Allianz Life Insurance Co, Central Bank, Morris Cadillac and Saab, and WSB & Associates.

There is still time to sponsor or play in this year's Classic. The 2008 event drew 64 golfers who, with corporate and individual sponsors, helped the Golf Classic raise \$4,897 for local human service organizations. For more information about the Golf Classic or the GVHSF, contact staff liaison Jeanne Fackler at 763-512-2340 or [jfackler@ci.golden-valley.mn.us](mailto:jfackler@ci.golden-valley.mn.us).

# City Copes With Budget As Property Values Decline

Overall, commercial and residential market values in Golden Valley decreased 8.3 percent for taxes payable 2011, according to preliminary figures by Hennepin County. This doesn't mean all Golden Valley properties decreased in value (some will still see an increase), but it does mean the majority of property values have gone down and the total market value of Golden Valley decreased.

But decreases in property values don't always mean decreases in property taxes, says Golden Valley Finance Director Sue Virnig. The costs of City services still have to be spread across the City's taxable market value.

Housing values have decreased for the last couple of years, says Virnig. The median home value in Golden Valley for taxes payable in 2011 went from \$270,000 to \$250,000, the steepest drop yet since values started to decrease in 2007 (see graph).

Meanwhile, even as the City works to decrease expenditures, the demand for City services has not decreased. And as the State of Minnesota is trying to balance its budget, Golden Valley will once again lose its market value credit in both 2010 and 2011. That's about a \$360,000 loss each year.

So once again the City Council and staff are reviewing all services with an eye toward reducing expenditures.

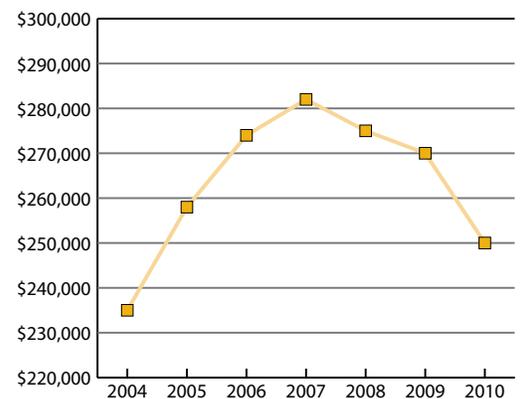
For several years now, the City has incrementally decreased budget expenditures. The current 2010 estimated general fund expenditures are \$14,982,195. In 2008 and 2009 expenditures were at \$15,213,216 and \$14,476,020, respectively.

### SHRINKING THE PIE

City officials are always looking at ways to trim expenditures. One option is to combine services with other cities or agencies (see story on page 1). The City already participates in more than 30 such cooperative agreements. To see a list, go to [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/cooperativeagreements.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/cooperativeagreements.htm).

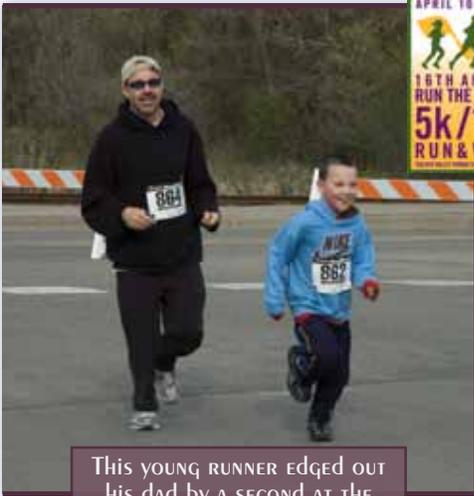
Another option is to revise existing programs. For example, improving infrastructure has long been a priority for the City and still is. Through its Pavement Management Program (PMP), in 1995 the City began reconstructing its streets that didn't meet standards, completing 79 of 120 miles through 2009 (22 miles had been reconstructed before 1995). To lessen the impact on taxpayers by reducing bonded debt needs, the City will annually re-evaluate the remaining 19 miles of street and possibly reduce the number miles that will be reconstructed each year, although this may increase maintenance costs.

You can follow the City's budget process online at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/taxes.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/taxes.htm). If you have questions about the City budget or property taxes, contact Virnig at 763-593-8010.



MEDIAN HOUSING VALUE IN GOLDEN VALLEY

# Run The Valley Brings In \$19,720 For GVHSF



THIS YOUNG RUNNER EDGED OUT his dad by a second at the finish line in the 5k run.



The 16th annual *Run the Valley* 5/10K Run and 5K Walk drew 650 runners and walkers April 10 to compete for medals and raise funds for the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF). It was the highest turnout in five years, says event coordinator Jeanne Fackler.

The event raised \$19,720 for the GVHSF, which allocates the funds to local human service organizations that benefit the community.

In the 10K, the top three male finishers were Chris Toepfer, Chicago (35:40); Erik DeLapp, Minneapolis (36:32); and John Grimes, Minneapolis (37:29). The top three female finishers were Susanna Emond, Minneapolis (36:03); Terri Edmond, Eau Claire (38:22); and Kaelyn Williams, Golden Valley (41:38).

In the 5K, the top three male finishers were Brian Davenport, Minneapolis (16:37); Christopher DeNucci, Minneapolis (16:49); and Jay Nelson, Minneapolis (18:00). The top three female finishers were Amy Lyons, Mounds View (18:04); Kristine Miller, St Louis Park (20:37); and Lisa Radzak, St Louis Park (22:31).

Participants received *Run The Valley* T-shirts, and medallions were awarded to the top finisher in each age group. Corporate sponsors included the Bassett Creek Dental, Channel 12/NWCT, City of Golden Valley, Liberty Diversified Industries, and Lupient Enterprises. Other sponsors included Al's Coffee, Byerly's Golden Valley, Einstein Bros Bagels, Go Health Chiropractic, Golden Valley Federated Women's Club, Great Glacier Water, Old Fashioned Donut Shoppe, Pilgrim Cleaners, Road ID, Valley Pastries, and Yoplait USA. Sponsors supplied T-shirts, food, and water for the event. The GVHSF thanks all who participated.

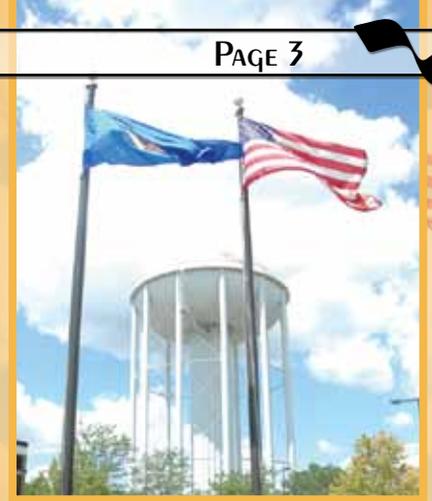
It was the highest turnout in five years.

The 2011 *Run The Valley* is set for Saturday, April 9. Watch the City website and CityNews for updates or contact Jeanne Fackler at 763-512-2340.

## A Tradition of Community Support

Since 1992, the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF) has worked to support organizations that serve Golden Valley residents. Each year, this board of citizen volunteers reviews funding requests and allocates funds raised by the Foundation through various annual fundraisers, such as *Run the Valley*, the *Golden Valley Golf Classic*, and November's *Taste of Golden Valley*. The Foundation also receives 10 percent of the pull tab monies collected in the City.

For 2010, the GVHSF allocated \$40,500 to 10 local human service organizations: Community Mediation Services (\$1,500), Crisis Connection (\$1,500), Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery (\$7,500), Home Free (\$2,500), Northwest Suburban Dinner at Your Door (\$5,000), PRISM (\$5,000), Senior Community Services HOME Program (\$5,000), Senior Community Services Outreach (\$2,500), Tree House (\$5,000), and YMCA (\$5,000).



## Memorial Day Parade Honors The Fallen

To honor those lost in war, Golden Valley's VFW Post 7051 and Chester Bird American Legion Post 523 are sponsoring a Golden Valley Memorial Day Parade Monday, May 31 at 10:15 am, followed by a ceremony in front of Golden Valley City Hall.

Highlights include a 3-Volley Salute, Taps, a Minnesota Army Honor Guard, and Brigadier General Timothy J Cossalter as guest speaker.

**Mon, May 31**  
**10:15am**  
Golden Valley Rd  
(Seeman Park west to City Hall)

The parade will commence from Seeman Park along Golden Valley Rd to City Hall. The ceremony will begin at 11 am in the City Hall parking lot near the flag pole. The event will also include participation from the Armstrong Symphonic Band and High School Choir; Girl Scouts; General John Vessey Leadership Academy Cadets; Army and Air National Guard; Minnesota Transitions High School Jr ROTC; North Hennepin Squadron Civil Air Patrol; Minnesota Sojourners; American Heritage Pipes & Drums; National League of POW/MIA Families; 101st ABN Div 502nd PIR Fox Company; Golden Valley Little League; Military Order of the Purple Heart; and more.

Free grilled hot dogs, chips, and pop will be provided to all in attendance immediately following the ceremony. Parking will be available in the front and back lots at Calvary Lutheran Church, 7520 Golden Valley Road, and the back lot of City Hall.

## It's UGH Time

Hennepin County and the City of St. Louis Park are teaming up to give residents a chance to get rid of UGH—"Unwanted Garden and Household" chemicals and waste—at a free, annual household hazardous waste collection:

**June 10–12**

7250 Hwy 7\*

(parking lot is in southwest quadrant of Hwy 7 and Louisiana Ave)

\*New Location!

### Accepted Materials\*

- auto wastes (batteries, starter fluid, etc)
- cleaning solvents, adhesives, aerosols
- consumer electronics (computers, TVs, etc)
- corrosives, drain cleaners
- driveway sealers
- flammable liquids
- fluorescent and HID lamps
- fuels (gasoline, kerosene, diesel)
- household batteries
- paints, paint thinners and solvents
- pesticides (insecticides, herbicides, etc)
- photographic and hobby chemicals
- pool chemicals
- rechargeable appliances
- wood preservatives



\*Not a complete list. Call 612-348-3777 for more information.

### Not Accepted:

Any waste from businesses, appliances\*, asbestos and construction debris, compressed gas cylinders and tanks, explosives, garbage, medical or infectious wastes, motor oil and oil filters, radioactive waste (eg, smoke detectors), tires\*, and yard waste.

\*Accepted at permanent drop-off sites.

Hennepin County's two permanent household hazardous waste drop-off sites (8100 Jefferson Hwy, Brooklyn Park and 1400 W 96<sup>th</sup> St, Bloomington) accept UGH year-round. For more information, call Hennepin County's 24-Hour Info-Line at 612-348-6500.



## Mercury: Handle With Extreme Care

Exposure to mercury can be harmful to humans and animals. At high concentrations, this neurotoxin damages or destroys nerve tissue, but any amount of exposure can pose health hazards. It is especially hazardous to pregnant women, nursing mothers, and young children.

Mercury is a naturally occurring element found in soil, water, and the air. There are trace amounts in virtually every living thing, as well as in coal and petroleum. The majority of mercury releases come from coal-burning power plants, manufacturing processes, and the improper disposal of mercury-containing products.

This shiny, silver metal was once widely used in manufacturing, agriculture, and other industries. It is still used in appliances, button batteries, electric relays, electronics, thermostats, thermometers, fluorescent light bulbs, light switches, security systems, and space heaters.

To protect your family and the environment from mercury exposure, use these tips:

- Buy products that don't contain mercury. Alternatives are available for many products, such as alcohol (those with a red tip) or digital thermometers and electronic thermostats.
- Handle mercury-containing products with care. Breakage or damage may allow mercury to escape. There is no danger of exposure if these products are used appropriately and disposed of properly.
- Properly dispose of mercury-containing products. In Minnesota it is illegal to place any mercury-containing product or device in the trash or wastewater disposal system. Hennepin County accepts all types of mercury-containing products from households—free of charge—at its drop-off facilities (see sidebar).
- Conserve energy. Reducing energy consumption and the amount of coal that power plants need to burn to meet energy demands will help reduce mercury emissions.

For more information about mercury and the County's drop-off facilities, visit [www.hennepin.us/environment](http://www.hennepin.us/environment) or call 612-348-3777.



## Recycling Service Expanded

Waste Management has expanded curbside recycling service to include plastic coated carton packaging, such as milk cartons, juice boxes, and cartons of soup and broth. The experimental program includes customers in Golden Valley, Plymouth, Minnetonka, Hopkins, Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, Crystal, and New Hope.

**To recycle these new materials, rinse the cartons and remove twist caps before placing in your recycling bin.**

Waste Management chose to expand service after successful completion of a 2009 national campaign and pilot program with the National

Carton Council and Tropicana. Waste Management secured a local end market for the material that will allow a longer "soak" time, resulting in separation of plastic from the carton.

## GOLDEN VALLEY RECYCLES

### Upcoming Holidays

#### Holiday Week

Memorial Day  
July 4

#### Pick-Up Date

Sat, Jun 5  
Fri, July 9

### Missed Pickups

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

# Emerald Ash Borer Threat: What Can You Do?

With budgets tightening and resources limited, the City of Golden Valley can only do so much to face the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) threat head on. Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom says City crews can implement a plan for public parks and open spaces, but private and commercial property owners will need to take initiative to manage ash trees on their own land.

“We may be able to help answer questions about the best ways to tackle the problem and deal with the aftermath, but we do not have the budget to go beyond that,” Lundstrom explains.

His first piece of advice is to visit the **Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) website at [www.mda.state.mn.us/invasives/eab](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/invasives/eab)**, which he calls a one-stop shop for all your questions about EAB.

The EAB active period is May 1 through Aug 31, and Golden Valley is currently in the quarantine area, meaning wood and waste from trees cannot be moved outside the area.

While the EAB has yet to be reported in the city limits, Lundstrom says now's the time to start planning. The beetle is expected to turn up in Golden Valley sometime soon. If you have a lot of ash trees on your property, it's wise to start saving for the cost of removal.

## THREE OPTIONS FOR YOUR ASH TREES

Lundstrom suggests three options: Remove ash trees from your yard proactively; treat the ash trees with insecticides (you may need to treat the tree once every two to three years for the course of its life); or wait until the trees are infested before removal.

The insecticide option is only practical with healthy trees. According to the University of Minnesota Extension Office, if the tree's canopy has died back by 50 percent or more, it is not worth saving. **For more information on using insecticides, visit [www.extension.umn.edu/issues/eab](http://www.extension.umn.edu/issues/eab).**

**If you have a lot of ash trees on your property, it's wise to start saving for the cost of removal.**

For a list of ash tree waste disposal sites within the Hennepin-Ramsey-Houston County area, visit the MDA website resource page and click on “Waste Disposal Sites.”

What you do about the ash trees on your property depends on how much you value the trees, Lundstrom says. If they're a crucial part of your landscape, you may want to consider chemical treatment. If you're not interested in treating the tree, you may want to consider saving for removal.

Removal can cost a few hundred or sometimes thousands of dollars, depending on the situation. Chemical treatment can cost a few hundred dollars per treatment. Leaving an infected tree standing is a safety hazard.

## BACKGROUND

The EAB beetle has killed tens of millions of ash trees where it has been discovered, and research has not found any resistance to this Asian beetle in our native ash. Minnesota has about 870 million ash trees, one of the largest concentrations of any state. These trees are abundant in our forests and are an important component of our urban landscapes. The City of Golden Valley is developing an EAB Management Plan to meet the anticipated impact of this pest on the urban forest (see sidebar).

Questions, call City Forester Tim Teynor at 763-593-3976. 



# CITY INVENTORY OF ASH TREES UNDER WAY

This February, the destructive Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) 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 this year, 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 population. It will help City foresters identify areas with high density ash populations and move forward with maintenance options.

The detailed inventory of all ash trees located on City property will include parks and nature areas, 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 developed plans 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. If you suspect an infestation near your home, visit the Minnesota Department of Agriculture website at [www.mda.state.mn.us](http://www.mda.state.mn.us) and use the “Do I Have Emerald Ash Borer?” checklist. 

Ash tree photo by dailyinvention, Emerald Ash Borer photo by Iowa State University, infested bark photo by James Marvin Phelps

## Recreation OPPORTUNITIES

Find details on the following recreation opportunities in the Summer Recreation Activities Brochure or the City website ([www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us)).

### SUMMER PARK PROGRAMS

Bike Rangers • Catch, Kick & Throw • Chess Club • Fishing Club • Flag Football • Ultimate Frisbee Camp • Hiking and Biking Club • Jump Rope • Kick Ball • Kids Korner • Park Baseball • Pens, Pencils, Markers & More • Pitch By Coach • Playgrounds • Sandy Volleyball • Soccer Skills Camp • Summer Survivor • T-Ball

### Park Special Events

- **Puppet Shows:** Tues & Thurs, various parks and times
- **Water Days:** June 25 & July 16, 12:30–2:15 pm, Scheid Park
- **Penny Carnival:** July 30, 10:30 am, Brookview
- **Picnic & Music In The Park:** Aug. 3, 11:15 am, Brookview

### Playground Field Trips

- **Brunswick Bowl:** June 18
- **Cascade Bay Water Park:** July 9
- **Bunker Beach Water Park:** July 23

### GENERAL PROGRAMS

Art Classes • Beginning Keyboard Camp • Balloon Workshop • Drama Club • Magic & More • Music, Mom/Dad, and Me • Preschool Mini Music Camp

### SkyHawks Camps

Basketball • Flag Football • Mini-Hawk • SNAG Golf • Soccer • Volleyball

### TENNIS CAMPS

Weekly, June 7–Aug 27, Brookview & Scheid Parks

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 Orchestra Kicks Off Concerts In The Park

As summer rolls in so does another season of live music in Brookview Park. The Concerts in the Park series begins June 14 with the Golden Valley Orchestra, which has a long tradition of being the first act of the summer.

“We do it as a service to the City and also to the community,” says Beth Moorhead, Orchestra president and principal oboist. “We enjoy being asked every year to do it and are grateful for the City’s continued support.”

The Golden Valley Orchestra, one of about five local groups out of the 10 who perform for Concerts in the Park, does it for no charge.

“It’s important to understand a community orchestra is based up of people who give up their time for free, to bring music to others,” Moorhead says.

The Orchestra’s roughly 40 members are all from the area. The group’s mission is to enrich and expand the musical experiences available to the community and “support continuing musical education through informative and entertaining performances.”

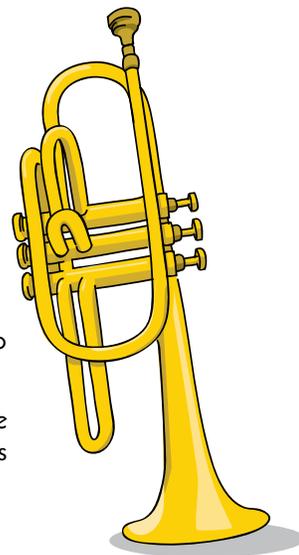
And that idea extends to the overall goal of Concerts in the Park, says Andy Soltvedt, recreation supervisor. Thanks to word-of-mouth, concert attendance has been growing.

About 150 to 250 people attend each performance, though it depends on the weather. Concerts take place inside the picnic shelter during light rain and are cancelled if weather is severe. The types of bands vary from jazz, country, or folk to full orchestra. For a complete list of performing artists and dates, see sidebar on page 1.

The concert program has been a part of Golden Valley for well over 20 years.

It’s great for family gatherings and picnics, and it’s just a pleasant way to spend an evening, Soltvedt says.

Questions about Concerts in the Park? Contact Andy Soltvedt at 763-512-2367. To learn more about the Golden Valley Orchestra, visit [www.goldenvalleyorchestra.org](http://www.goldenvalleyorchestra.org).



## RESIDENTS BENEFIT FROM Co-op REC AGREEMENTS

Golden Valley has worked out partnerships with other cities and organizations to widen recreation opportunities for GV residents.

Residents of Golden Valley may purchase a season pass to the **outdoor family aquatic center in St Louis Park** (5005 W 36th St) at the St Louis Park resident rate. GV extends the same agreement for St Louis Park residents for the purchase of Brookview Golf Course patron cards. For more information on the aquatic center, call St Louis Park at 952-924-2540.

The 10,000-square-foot gymnasium at **Davis Community Center** (attached to Meadowbrook Elementary School at 5430 Glenwood Ave), provides space for Golden Valley Park & Recreation Department gym programs for people of all ages. Davis is the result of a collaboration between the City of Golden Valley and the Hopkins School District.

# Great Ways To Get Involved, Stay Connected

## GOLDEN VALLEY CONNECTS

Want to stay connected with your neighbors, get involved in a group that interests you, or form your own interest group? Golden Valley Connects is a great place to start.

Go to [i-neighbors.org](http://i-neighbors.org), use zip code 55427 (even if that is not your zip code) and join or create a group. You can also reach i-neighbors through the Connecting Golden Valley link on the City website ([www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us)). There you can connect with others with similar interests, put your event on the calendar, or organize neighborhood events. Current groups under 55427 include:

- Golden Valley Garden Club
- Golden Valley Rotary
- Buckthorn Busters
- Bridge Builders
- Golden Valley Women of Today
- Golden Valley Historical Society
- Paisley Lane Neighborhood
- Golden Valley Connects
- Lee Avenue Watchers
- Envision Connection Project



## SAVE THE DATE... & be a part of these events

### Natural History Museum in the Park Meeting June 23, 6:30 pm, Golden Valley Library

Are there ways to enjoy the out-of-doors and absorb education about the natural world at the same time? Bridge Builder Diane Thottungal thinks so. She is a botanist who wants Golden Valley kids to know about and appreciate the natural world. Whether it is games on the picnic table, a mini-henge of Minnesota stone, or kiosks with educational information on the wonders right in view—she has many ideas on how to engage visitors enjoying nature. Bring your ideas and collaborate with her on ways to make these visions come true. Contact Diane Thottungal at 763-374-9904.



### Ice Cream Social—July 19

A feature of the summer Concerts in the Park series, the third annual Ice Cream Social will be July 19 at Brookview Park. Enjoy music by Tubby Esquire and Sebastian Joe's Ice Cream scooped by the City Council and other volunteers. If you're available to help with set up, scooping, and other activities, contact Jeanne Andre at 763-593-8014.

### Lilac Project—Oct 2

The third annual Lilac Planting Party is set for Saturday, Oct 2. Planting occurs in the morning and is capped by a celebration lunch. Invite your friends, neighbors, and teams to join you in a morning of planting, and then take satisfaction in watching your plants grow along Hwy 55. If you're in a community organization or part of a business, suggest that the group volunteer for the Lilac Project. Planting this year will occur between Boone Ave N and Hwy 169. A new feature in 2010 will be daffodils popping up among the lilacs, made possible with the help of the Daffodil Society of Minnesota. Volunteer on Oct 2 or work with the Lilac Project on planning the event. Contact Dwight Townes at 763-377-8469 or Jeanne Andre at 763-593-8014. 

## 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

June 3: "What Are Labels Really Telling You?" • July 1: "Being Social – It's Good for You"

Both at 1 pm, Calvary Cooperative, 7600 Golden Valley Rd.

### PEDAL PUSHERS BICYCLE GROUP

June 8 & 22; July 6 & 15. Call for information.

### MONEY MATTERS

June 17: "End-of-Life Decision Making: Preparing Yourself and Your Loved Ones For a Difficult Time" • July 15: "What To Do When Someone Dies"

Both 10–11 am.

### BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

June 23 & July 28, 11–11:30 am, free Register by sending a check to Minnesota Safety Council, 474 Concordia Ave, St Paul, MN, 55103.

### COFFEE TALK

June 23: "From Start to Finish, It Really Is a Global Economy." Meet a free-lance designer who will take us from Minnesota to China and back to get her items on the shelves. 9:45 am, \$2 payable at door. Register by June 21.

### TRIPS & OUTINGS

- July 30: Tall Ships Festival in Duluth: breakfast at Tobie's, Harbor Drive Docking Area to view and tour the tall ships, lunch on your own, \$63 (register by June 21)
- July 31: Mora Tour of Gardens, Kanabec History Center for brunch, \$49 (register by July 5)
- Aug 12: "How To Talk Minnesotan," with lunch, \$50 (register by July 26)

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



# Increased Park Use + Decreased Budgets = Maintenance Challenges

**W**alkers, joggers, bikers, picnickers, and participants in Golden Valley's numerous recreation programs have kept the City's parks and nature areas well populated and heavily used for decades. In the last few years, park use has increased even more, says Ron Hammer, maintenance supervisor.

"We've noticed over the past couple of years, last year especially, that there's a nice increase in people using the parks, particularly large groups," he says. "Last year we really noticed it go up. A lot of groups with 250 or 300 plus people are more frequently renting out the picnic shelters."

Hammer says this may be due to the economy. Renting space at a local park is cheaper for a party or gathering than going out of town or renting a boat. It's practical. Also, more families may be vacationing at home, keeping local recreational facilities in greater demand.

But the very reason park use may be going up—the economy—also means less money to address increased maintenance demands. Residents can help by picking up after themselves after using a park space.

"It can take up to five hours of staff time to clean up after any event," Hammer says. "Most groups do a good job picking up, but if everyone patrolled the ground and picked up litter, it would really cut down on the hours of maintenance it takes to get the facilities in shape for other groups."

A tighter budget means certain maintenance projects won't be taken care of as quickly as before, so any help from residents is beneficial for all.

"We encourage people to help be our eyes and ears," Hammer says. "If you see a maintenance issue in the parks, problem with play equipment, a broken light, a hole in the ground, please report it."

With help and cooperation from the community, park maintenance crews will continue to keep Golden Valley open space and recreation areas safe, accessible, and enjoyable for everyone.



# Park Maintenance by the numbers

## the CREW

Golden Valley's park maintenance crew tends to 330 acres of parks, nature areas, and open spaces each day during the growing season. In the summer, the full-time staff is assisted by seasonal maintenance employees.



The Full-Time Crew. Back: Ron Hammer (supervisor), Bob Thelen, Rick Tilbury, Dwight Juell. Front: Sarah Thompson, Josh Yonak, Joe Nehring.

## the WORK

To keep Golden Valley public spaces in shape and looking good, here's a rough breakdown of the work that's required.

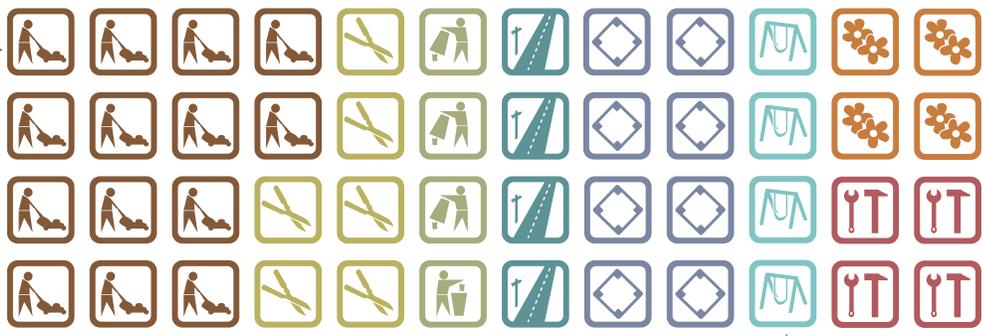
Each icon represents 10 hours of time per week, for a total of 480 hours per week. Hours spent on each task will vary according to weather and other factors.

They also handle fertilizing, dirt and seeding projects, weed control, and maintenance of the irrigation systems throughout the parks, streetscapes, and the City Hall campus.

Another major focus during the growing season is maintenance of the City's 17 soccer fields, 23 tennis courts, 17 hard surface/basketball courts, and 31 ball diamonds.

Crews maintain all City streetscapes (plus Winnetka Ave, Xenia Ave, Duluth St, and General Mills Blvd) including flowers, shrubs, mulch, and trash cans.

Maintenance crews rack up 140 hours a week mowing grass, as well as trimming and tending to grass around trees, fences, and buildings in the parks.



Crews clean and maintain park shelter buildings and provide maintenance on City buildings.

During the busy time of the year (April–September), crews spend several hours per week cleaning up after large parties or events, and emptying 200 park trash cans, says Park Maintenance Supervisor Ron Hammer. The cans are emptied three times a week, yielding about 36 cubic yards of trash, he adds. That's enough to fill a doubles tennis court 9 feet high with trash by the end of September, and it costs the City more than \$12,000 annually. Hammer reminds residents that park trash cans are only for park waste, such as picnic by-products, not for household trash.

Crews maintain 49 miles of trails and sidewalks.

Crews perform regular inspection and upkeep of playground equipment and outdoor lighting systems at all parks and City buildings.

**Special Events** Crews also support community festivals, such as Valley Days, and Park and Rec activities such as the Bike Rodeo, Penny Carnival, Water Days, and others.

### What about the winter?

In the winter, crews look after six hockey rinks and 10 pleasure rinks that must be maintained daily from December to mid February. And when the City is hit with a winter storm, the crew also helps with street plowing and sidewalk clearing.

For more information on Park Maintenance activities throughout the year, or to report concerns, call Ron Hammer at 763-593-8045.



**NIGHT to UNITE!**  
Neighbors Joining Together  
**Tuesday, August 3**

Golden Valley neighborhoods are invited to join cities throughout Minnesota on August 3 for Night to Unite.

The Golden Valley Police Department has a long tradition of crime prevention and believes that effective crime prevention strategies begin with strong neighborhood and police partnerships. Minnesota's Night to Unite (MNTU) will celebrate these partnerships in preventing crime.

Get together for a potluck dinner, ice cream social, barbecue, bike parade, etc. Use your imagination and plan something fun!

MNTU planning kits will be mailed to Neighborhood Watch block captains in June and are also available on the City website.

For more information, contact the Police Department at 763-593-8079.

# When Do You Call 911?

Let's say you're home in bed, and your neighbor is keeping you awake by blasting his stereo at an unreasonable volume. It's 2 am. Should you call 911?

What if you're home during the day, and you spot a suspicious vehicle or a man you don't recognize lingering around a neighbor's home. Your instinct is telling you something's not right. Should you call 911?

And what if a crime already occurred in your area, and after the fact you spot something, a shoe, a weapon, that could be evidence in the case or help police find a suspect. Should you call 911?

The answer to all three is "yes."

Too often people are worried about bothering officers, says Golden Valley Police Chief Stacy Altonen. They think 911 is just for obvious and immediate emergencies. But reporting evidence, suspicious behavior, and witness accounts helps officers do their job.

"We find out countless times when canvassing neighborhoods after a crime that people saw something that can help with the case, but they didn't call it in," Altonen says. "You're not bothering us." She adds that people have gone so

far as to report burglaries in progress on the Police Department's non-emergency voice mail.

**IF YOU'RE DEBATING  
WHETHER OR NOT TO  
CALL 911, CALL 911.**

Instances you normally might not think of as emergencies, like loud parties next door or vandalizing in progress, are also 911 situations. If you're debating whether or not to call 911, Altonen says, call 911. "If you call and it's not a 911 appropriate issue, they will tell you."

If it's something that has already happened and is a static issue, such as a neighbor with property violations, it's not a 911 situation, Altonen says. If it's happening in real time, call 911. 



## Firefighters Climb To Raise Funds For ALA

The Golden Valley Fire Department raised \$5,228 for the American Lung Association (ALA) this winter at the annual Fight For Air stair climb fundraising event in Minneapolis. The Golden Valley team raised the most money of the nine fire departments and the 38 non-fire department teams participating in the race up 660 steps of the Accenture Tower.

Of all participating firefighters from Minnesota, Golden Valley's Ken Bence was the top fundraiser, with \$3,425.

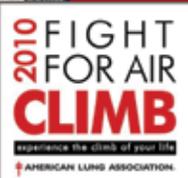
Paul Peterson had the best Golden Valley time, climbing the 30 floors in full firefighter gear in 7 minutes, 23 seconds. Ben Vogel was second, followed by Steve Yingst. Other Golden Valley Fire participants were Steve Baker, Bryan Magnuson, and Sarah Auel.

"The gear weighs 68 pounds," says Baker. "It's hot. It's heavy. It's restricting. But you try not to stop. I shaved 15 seconds off my time from last year. It's a lot of fun."

One of the best things about it is it gives firefighters a chance to build some team camaraderie and work together to raise money for a good cause, Baker adds.

The ALA Fight for Air Climbs are held throughout the nation. Sometimes called a "vertical road race," teams and individual participants can use the event as a fitness target, as a race, or as a way to be active and meet new friends. ALA Climbs are also a way to support someone who has lung disease or as a memorial to someone who has died from complications of lung disease.

For more information, visit [www.lungusa.org/donate/events/fight-for-air-climb](http://www.lungusa.org/donate/events/fight-for-air-climb). 



# Firefighter Info Meetings Address Your Questions

Maybe you've thought about becoming a paid on-call firefighter, but you've doubted yourself. You've felt, for one reason or another, you couldn't do it. That's OK. But sometimes all it takes to squelch those doubts is a little more education on the subject, says Fire Education Specialist Stephen Baker.

"A lot of people don't think they can be firefighters, but you'd be surprised with what you can do," Baker says.

So he recommends coming to one of Golden Valley's firefighter enrollment information meetings (see box). There is no pressure to sign up. It's simply to learn more and ask questions.

"There's no commitment," Baker says.

"Just come and learn, find out more if it's something you might be interested in. That's all."

In the meantime, visit [goldenvalleyfire.com](http://goldenvalleyfire.com) to learn more about the department and what it has to offer, he adds.

The Golden Valley Fire Department regularly seeks men and women of all ages to join its long tradition of community service by becoming paid, on-call firefighters. 

*Attend A Firefighter Info Meeting*

**Thursday, June 24**  
6:30 pm

**Thurs, August 19**  
9 am, 6:30 pm

All meetings will be held at Fire Station 1, 7800 Golden Valley Rd.



## Fire And Police Open House



**Wednesday, June 16**  
6-8 pm

**Fire Station 1 & Police Department**  
7800 Golden Valley Rd

**Fire Station 2**  
400 Turners Crossroad

**Fire Station 3**  
3700 Golden Valley Rd

Featuring Fire and Police Station tours, McGruff the Crime Dog, Sparky the Fire Dog, police squad car, SWAT team, Old Number One fire truck, live fire demo, fire extinguisher training, auto extrication demo, dunk-a-cop/firefighter, BART Animal Rescue, Squirt House, Fatal Vision display, blood pressure checks by North Memorial, door prizes\*, and more. 

\*while supplies last

**Healthcare Pro.  
Choir Member.  
Firefighter.**



**Ken**  
New Recruit, 1999  
Captain, Station 2

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

KEN BENCE THOUGHT ABOUT BEING A firefighter since he was a kid, saying he's always been attracted to lights and sirens. In high school and after college, that (and an interest in health care) led him to a stint or two with volunteer ambulance and fire services. Once his kids were a little older, those same interests led him to the Golden Valley Fire Department.

"I love it," he says. He likes the people, the community

involvement, the responsibilities of being a station captain, and the "toys." He also likes that firefighting has given him lots of opportunity for personal growth and leadership, and that it's very different from his profession and office work.

"I get a lot of pride working for a great department and a nice community," says Bence. "More people should do this."

## Street Dance

**Saturday, June 19**  
4 pm-midnight

Chester Bird American Legion  
Hwy 100 & Glenwood Ave

- Family activities
- Hot dogs, brats, roasted corn-on-the-cob, chips, popcorn, snow cones, pop
- 7 pm-midnight: *The Mooners*
- Fireworks at dusk

Sponsored by the Golden Valley Fire Relief Association.

For more information, contact the Golden Valley Fire Department at 763-512-2420. 



## Things To Consider Before You Sealcoat

While sealcoating can improve the appearance of your driveway and provide some limited protection against gas and oil spills, it also poses some serious environmental concerns and can contribute to higher storm water management costs.

Sealcoat products come in two basic varieties: coal tar based and asphalt based. Both contain polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which have been shown to contribute to serious health problems for fish, aquatic organisms, and in certain cases, humans.

### COAL TAR VS ASPHALT

Coal tar, a by-product of coal processing, is resistant to petroleum products (like gas and oil) that drip from vehicles and can deteriorate pavement.

As sunlight and vehicle traffic wear down a sealcoat, flakes are washed away by rain or wind and can be deposited into the storm sewer systems or ponds. They eventually reach our rivers, lakes, and streams, contaminating them with PAHs.

A study in Texas determined that coal tar products contained up to 1,000 times more PAHs than asphalt-based products. While asphalt-based sealcoat run-off can contain 10 times more PAHs than uncoated driveways, coal tar sealcoats can have up to 65 times more PAHs than uncoated driveways.

PAHs can also make routine maintenance of storm water ponds much more expensive if enough concentration is found in the sediment because it has to be disposed of differently. When some Minnesota cities found high PAH concentrations, it cost thousands more to dispose of the collected sediment.

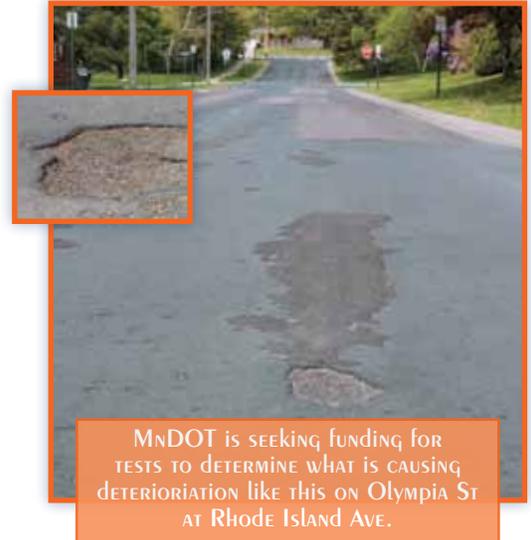
Because of environmental problems associated with PAHs, some jurisdictions have banned coal tar sealcoats (asphalt-based sealcoats may still be used). Minnesota's state agencies have been banned from purchasing coal tar sealants since 2009. The Minnesota Legislature is currently considering a bill that would ban the use and sale of coal tar products. 

# City Alters Maintenance Plan For Streets In 2010

This summer, the City of Golden Valley will alter its pavement maintenance strategies by doing overlays on five streets instead of sealcoating on many streets. The change was prompted by deterioration of the asphalt on several City streets that were reconstructed within the last 10 to 15 years. As a result, the City will overlay the following streets in 2010:

- St Croix Ave from Douglas Dr to Lilac Dr
- Schaper Dr from Hwy 55 to Ottawa Ave
- North Hwy 55 Frontage Rd from Schaper Dr to approximately 700 feet west
- Olympia St from Winnetka Ave to Pennsylvania Ave

The City will possibly overlay Olympia St from Pennsylvania Ave to Douglas Dr. The City will also sealcoat Douglas Dr from Golden Valley Rd to St Croix Ave as a cooperative project with Hennepin County to accommodate the proposed lane reconfiguration on that segment (see story on page 13).



## ORIGIN AND CAUSE OF PROBLEM

To help determine the origin of the pavement deterioration, Golden Valley's Public Works staff met and inspected the streets with a representative of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) Road Research Division. MnDOT staff noted they had seen similar deterioration on streets in several other areas in the state.

To determine the cause of the deterioration, MnDOT is seeking funding to have the Local Road Research Board (LRRB) perform testing on defective pavements as well as adjacent "control section" pavements where the defects are not present. Funding is expected to be available in summer 2010.

MnDOT staff has theorized the problem could be due to moisture collecting under the chip seals many cities use for normal maintenance, thereby sustaining damage through the freeze-thaw cycle. Another potential cause may be from use of aggregate in the asphalt production that may be susceptible to stripping; in other words, the bituminous material in the asphalt fails to stick to the aggregate and eventually breaks down.

The highest incidence of deterioration in Golden Valley seems to be on higher traffic volume streets where asphalt polymer is included in the bitumen (oil) used for the chip seals to more effectively lock the aggregate in place.

## INTERIM SOLUTION

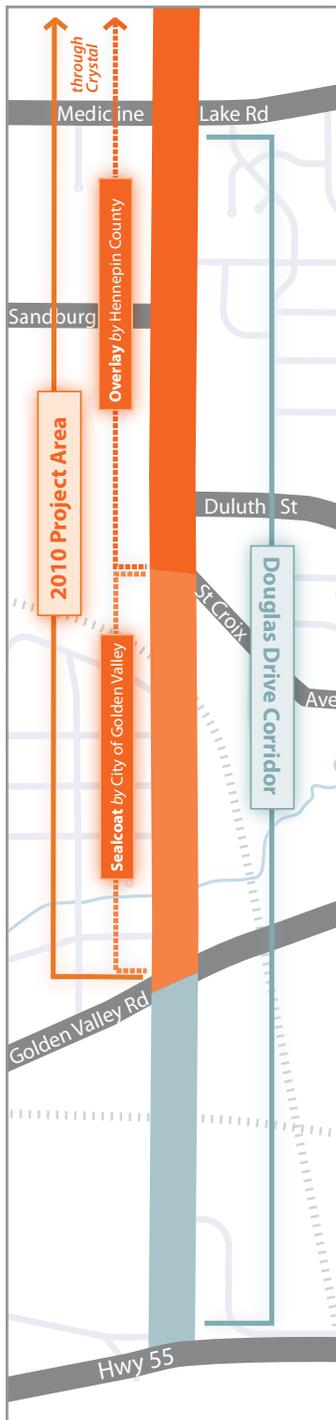
Based on the condition of the streets and the unknown concern about the impact of sealcoating, MnDOT and City staff advised altering City pavement maintenance strategies for 2010. This will allow MnDOT to complete the study with the LRRB and provide funding for overlays on streets where the need is justified.

City staff will continue to monitor the condition of pavement on City streets and determine appropriate maintenance practices as needed. Questions? Contact Golden Valley Public Works at 763-593-8030. 

# Douglas Drive Corridor Redesign In The Works

A stretch of Douglas Dr from Golden Valley Rd to the northern City limits will be resurfaced and re-striped this summer, bringing it from four lanes to two lanes with a center turn lane.

The City has requested that Hennepin County put a larger reconstruction project in its capital improvement program for 2016, which calls for a local funding match from Golden Valley. Planning will begin almost immediately, aided with a federal grant awarded by Transit for Livable Communities (TLC). The \$1 million-plus grant will provide money for preliminary engineering and some early acquisitions of right-of-way.



## COMING UP THIS SUMMER

This summer's project will reduce turning conflicts and provide space for bike users off the sidewalks and out of traffic lanes. These issues were also identified in the City's Douglas Dr Corridor study (see sidebar at right).

To accommodate these lane reconfigurations and some intersection improvements, Hennepin County will place an asphalt overlay on Douglas Dr from St Croix Ave north to 51st Place in Crystal. The City of Golden Valley will sealcoat Douglas Dr between Golden Valley Rd and St Croix Ave.

Except for some potential intersection improvements, the interim project will be constructed within the current footprint of the roadway. By the end of the summer, after the improvements are constructed, the County plans a speed study along the corridor to determine if the proposed speed limit of 35 mph can be maintained.

## Hwy 55 & DOUGLAS MORATORIUM

The Douglas Dr Corridor Study identified multiple land use changes that could occur over time. On the southeast end of the corridor, at Highway 55 and Douglas, the study identified use for a "corporate campus." This area is now zoned "Industrial." To analyze this location and look into the possibility of rezoning it, the City Council is considering a moratorium that would temporarily restrict new development in the area (but still allow improvements within existing building footprints).

If you have questions about this project, call Golden Valley's Ron Nims at 763-593-8032 (sealcoating), Hennepin County's Chris Sagsveen at 612-596-0279 (overlay), or Golden Valley's Joe Hogeboom at 763-593-8099 (Douglas Dr Corridor Study).

Michael Schroeder, project manager of the Douglas Drive Corridor Study, discusses potential land use configurations with residents at an open house last August.

## Council To Consider Douglas Dr Area Plan

The Douglas Drive Corridor Study completed in 2009 enabled residents and City officials to outline a vision for the future of the corridor. The vision has helped the City work with Hennepin County to plan transportation improvements for vehicles, pedestrians, and bikes. To consolidate the public and private visions, the City will consider adopting a Douglas Drive Corridor Redevelopment Area Plan in July.

A redevelopment plan sets the stage for public improvements and private redevelopment. It also allows the City to set up a tax increment financing district and apply for certain redevelopment grants. A plan initiated by the City's Housing and Redevelopment Authority and reviewed by the Planning Commission will go before the City Council at a public hearing July 6.

The proposed redevelopment area includes properties on the east side of Douglas Dr from the Luce Line Trail north to Duluth St.

The City's goal is a major overhaul of the Douglas Drive Corridor from Hwy 55 to Medicine Lake Rd. Many impediments, including two railroad crossings, drainage ditches, overhead utility lines, a creek crossing, and varied topography, make this a difficult and costly public project. The Douglas Drive Corridor Redevelopment Plan will be one more tool to help the city with this project and encourage private development along the corridor.



# Railroad Crossing Safety Is Not Just For Drivers

## OPERATION LIFESAVER:

### *The Place For RR Safety Tips*

In 1972, the number of collisions nationwide at highway-rail grade crossings exceeded 12,000 annually. In response, the state of Idaho and the Union Pacific railroad sponsored a one-time, six-week public awareness campaign called "Operation Lifesaver." When Idaho's crossing-related fatalities dropped by 43 percent that first year, the campaign continued and spread to other states, resulting in similar reductions in collision rates.

Today, Operation Lifesaver is "an international, non-profit education and awareness program dedicated to ending tragic collisions, fatalities and injuries at highway-rail grade crossings and on railroad rights of way." The Operation Lifesaver website ([www.oli.org](http://www.oli.org)) offers an abundance of safety resources, including the following general tips:

- A typical locomotive weighs about 400,000 pounds, or 200 tons. Add 100 railcars and the train can weigh approximately 6,000 tons. The weight ratio of an automobile to a train is proportional to a soda can and an automobile.
- Trains cannot stop quickly. It is a simple law of physics: the weight, size, and speed of the train dictate how quickly it can stop under ideal conditions. A 100-car freight train traveling at 55 mph will need more than a mile to stop—that's approximately 18 football fields—once the train is set into emergency braking.
- An approaching train will always be closer and moving faster than you think.
- Today's trains are quieter than ever; you may not hear them approach.
- Trains **always** have the right of way—over emergency vehicles, cars, and pedestrians.

And finally, "Remember: Rail and recreation do not mix!" In other words, stay off the tracks. ❧

According to Operation Lifesaver, last year, more than 760 people were killed or injured nationwide while trespassing on railroad tracks. Railroad tracks are dangerous areas, and you need to use proper caution when around them. As spring turns to summer, here are some important reminders when walking, running, or biking near railroad tracks.

**PRIVATE PROPERTY** Railroad tracks, railroad yards, and everything operating on the rails are private property. This includes railroad bridges, trestles, and tunnels. Anyone caught within the right-of-way of the rail tracks could be arrested or fined. Going onto the tracks is also dangerous. By the time a locomotive engineer can see a trespasser or a vehicle on the tracks, it is too late. The train cannot stop quickly enough to avoid a collision.

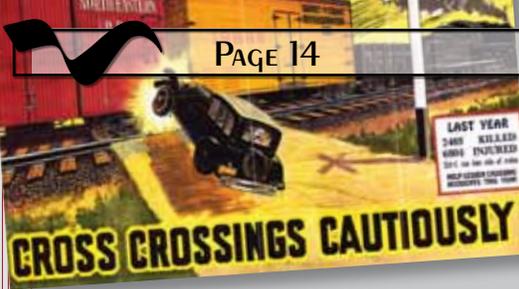


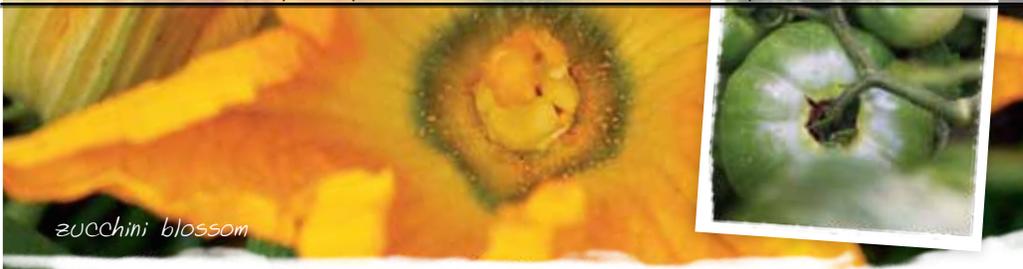
**TRAVELING NEXT TO THE TRACKS** You don't have to be on the tracks to be hit by a train. When using a trail alongside railroad tracks, make sure to stay on the trail. Trains overhang the tracks by at least three feet in both directions, and loose straps hanging from rail cars may extend even further, so a train can still hit you even if you are in the right-of-way next to the tracks.

**CROSSING THE TRACKS** While some trains have fairly set schedules, this is not always the case. Never assume a train is not coming because trains in the area appear to have a schedule. Cross only at designated pedestrian or roadway crossings, and observe and obey all warning signs and signals. Just like when crossing a street, look both ways before proceeding across the tracks. Trains can come from either direction. Never cross the tracks immediately after a train passes. A second train might be blocked by the first. Wait until you can see clearly around the first train in both directions.

**FLASHERS AND GATES** Railroad crossing warning systems, such as flashers and gates, are for pedestrians as well as vehicles. Whether walking or driving, make sure to wait to cross the tracks until the warning flashers and gates have stopped. Never walk around or behind lowered gates at a crossing.

Railroad safety begins at an early age, and the rules apply to everyone. Families should stress the importance of railroad safety whenever a teachable moment occurs. For more information, check out Operation Lifesaver (see sidebar) at [www.oli.org](http://www.oli.org). This nationwide initiative was started in 1972 to try to improve railroad safety. ❧





zucchini blossom

## City Offers Tips For First-Time Gardeners

As gardening season takes full bloom, think about what you want to accomplish with your garden and how much time you're willing to spend on it, says Assistant City Forester Tim Teynor.

If you've never gardened before, he says, it's a fun and healthy pastime that can be very satisfying. But start small and work your way up.

A lot of first-time gardeners don't realize just how much time and attention a garden needs to survive. Too many times Teynor has seen people set up a large plot to garden in, and by the end of the summer it's a patch of weeds.

"Weeding can take you a half a day on the weekend if it's a big plot," he says. "And you may have to water every day, and think about insect or disease control."

### Tip No. 1: Start Small.

Teynor suggests looking into the rising trend of square-foot gardens—gardens that are no larger than a square on a checkered floor.



It doesn't take a big garden to grow a tasty meal.

"It's a neat and convenient way to get started without overdoing it," Teynor says. "You can get variety in a limited space."

A square-foot garden takes a few minutes to weed, and while you might have to narrow your ambitions (maybe you just grow salad vegetables, or roses, or onions), you're much less likely to get discouraged.

### Tip No. 2: Research.

Figure out ahead of time what kinds of things you want to grow, what fits your lifestyle, and what lends itself well to your property's environment. Is your lawn a sunny place? Does it have a lot of drainage? Is the soil loose or clayish? All these factors influence crops differently. If you plant vegetables that require a lot of sunlight, but your yard is entirely in the shade, you will be disappointed with the results. Research ahead of time helps you avoid that frustration.

### Tip No. 3: Try Something Different.

Sometimes it takes a few trials before you figure out what plants grow well in your garden. Plant something different each year until you settle on some favorites.

### Tip No. 4: Expand.

Once you've gotten the hang of a square-foot garden, you may feel more comfortable expanding. And you'll be a more experienced gardener ready to tackle the challenges of a larger plot.

"Gardening gets you outdoors, in the fresh air. It gets you exercising. And it's a convenient source of fresh produce or flowers," Teynor says. "If you start out slow and build from there, you'll be satisfied."

For more information, visit the University of Minnesota's Yard & Garden page at [www.extension.umn.edu/ConsumerHort/](http://www.extension.umn.edu/ConsumerHort/).

## Zoning Change Affects Garden Structures

The Golden Valley City Council recently passed a zoning change that will affect garden structures in the City.

Free standing garden structures, such as pergolas, permanent outdoor fireplaces or grills, and arbors must be located no closer than five feet to any property line. Garden structures must not exceed 10 feet in height.

Each property is limited to a total of 1,000 square feet of the following accessory structures: detached and attached garages, detached sheds, greenhouses, and gazebos. Swimming pools are not included in this requirement. No one detached accessory structure may be larger than 800 square feet in area, and any accessory structure over 120 square feet in area requires a building permit.

Questions? Contact the City's Planning Department at 763-593-8085.

## Carol's Outdoor Watering Tip

By learning to read your water meter, you can track your water consumption and avoid surprises on your utility bill. This is especially handy during the summer, when outdoor watering can account for many additional gallons charged to your quarterly utility bill. Those end-of-summer bills can be surprising if you're not aware of how much water you used on your lawn and garden.

The April, May, and June utility bills include a handout that details how to monitor your water consumption, along with a water usage chart to help you keep track. The information is also available online at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us).

Questions? Contact Carol at 763-593-8016.



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.

## Photo Contest 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.



Deliver complete entries by June 7, 2010 to:  
 Photo Contest—City of Golden Valley  
 7800 Golden Valley Road  
 Golden Valley, MN 55427

# Views of the Valley Entries Due June 7

Itching to show off your photography skills? Enter the 18<sup>th</sup> annual *Views of the Valley* photo contest. All winning entries are published in *CityNews* and the City website and reproduced for permanent display in City Hall. First prize winners in each category receive \$100; grand prize is an additional \$50. Deadline for entry is June 7, at 4:30 pm. Mail or drop off completed entries. City employees and their families are not eligible to enter.

### Rules

- Golden Valley residents can submit photos in three categories: **Natural Golden Valley** (landscapes, flora, fauna, etc); **Golden Valley Lifestyle** (cityscapes, buildings, people, activities, etc); and **Enhanced** (photos significantly altered by editing software, lenses, etc). On the entry form, explain what alterations were made.
- Submit up to three **5x7** color or black-and-white photo finish prints (no slides, photocopies, or prints not on photo-quality paper; digital files must be accompanied by a 5x7 print on photo-quality paper). Do not mat or frame photos.
- Include complete entry information for each photo (see form at left). All entries submitted must be your own work. All decisions are final, and judges reserve the right not to award in any category. Contest organizers reserve the right to re-categorize or disqualify any entrant.

The City of Golden Valley is not responsible for lost entries. The photographer is responsible for obtaining approval from identifiable people in a photo taken in a non-public space. If you have questions or need more entry forms, call 763-593-8004.



Grand prize winners from the last four years were (top to bottom): "Just Hanging Around" by Elena Bursch; "Friend in the Garden" by Brian Wright; "The Beauty of Bassett Creek" by Janice Laulainen; and "Fox Pup" by Shawn Dooley.

City of Golden Valley

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

**Mayor/Council Message Line:** 763-593-8001  
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**Mayor:** Linda R. Loomis **City Manager:** Thomas Burt

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