

Golden Valley

CITYNEWS



City To Debut New Website In August

To better serve the community, the City of Golden Valley will launch a revamped website Aug 31 featuring improved navigation, streamlined and accessible information architecture, up-to-date technology, and plentiful images that reflect the community's personality. It will also have a simplified domain name: www.goldenvalleymn.gov, although the current domain name will still work.

All development, writing, and design was completed in-house by the City's communications staff. To start the process, staff conducted focus groups with citizens and staff. People wanted a simple, easy to use design and showed a strong desire for a more attractive, inviting, vibrant website that reflected Golden Valley's image and provided a good first impression of the community.

Next step: extensive research on website development, with a particular focus on government websites. Using free resources available through professional organizations, staff consulted with colleagues across the country about successful tools, techniques, and trends. After prioritizing goals and resources, staff began reorganizing and redesigning the massive site and rewriting content to reflect today's preferred website standards.

The current City website was designed in 1999, with enhancements added over the years. The new website will feature space-saving drop-down menus and navigation tools, ample graphics and color, use of free or low-cost third-party applications to provide interactive maps, calendars, and forms, and more. It represents a major step forward for the City and will continue to evolve with the addition of new applications and interactivity.

Bookmarks to the old site will no longer work after Aug 31, so be sure to reset them. Questions? Contact Communications Coordinator Cheryl Weiler at 763-593-8004 or cweiler@ci.golden-valley.mn.us.

Lilac Planting Party Is Oct 2

Golden Valley's Envision Connection Project Bridge Builders invites you to its third annual Lilac Planting Party.



Saturday, Oct 2

8:30–9 am: Registration

9 am–1 pm: Planting

1–2 pm: Celebration Lunch



This grass-roots community beautification is a collaboration between Bridge Builders, the City of Golden Valley, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Community Roadside Landscaping Partnership Program.

Consider gathering a group from your neighborhood, church, business, or club to form a team for lilac planting Oct 2. Check out the landscaping planted in the first two years, from Boone Ave east to Glenwood Ave, and resolve to be part of this year's event. Then see the fruits of your labor beautifying the community for years to come.

If you register with Jeanne Andre at 763-593-8014 or jandre@ci.golden-valley.mn.us by Sept 24, your team and sponsoring organization will be acknowledged at the event and in subsequent publications.

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Golden Valley Achieves AAA Bond Rating

The City of Golden Valley achieved the pinnacle of creditworthiness this year when Moody's Investors Service upgraded its bond rating from AA1 to AAA, the highest bond rating available from a rating service.

High bond ratings allow cities to borrow money at lower interest rates when they sell General Obligation bonds to raise capital for equipment purchases and improvements to parks, streets, and other projects. High bond ratings also increase the value of the bonds for investors.

When Moody's revises bond ratings, it reviews the City's financial statements, budget, and current debt, as well as other economic and financial factors.

Moody's categorized Golden Valley as a "mature and affluent Minneapolis suburb that benefits from strong employment base.

"Bolstered by ample reserves and relatively stable expenditures, we expect the City's financial health to continue, despite cuts in Market Value Homestead Credit from the State of Minnesota." (Moody's Bond Rating Report, May 14, 2010)

"This upgraded bond rating is a vote of confidence in Golden Valley," says City Manager Tom Burt. "It recognizes solid financial management, especially in these economic times."

Council Reviews Proposed 2011 City Budget

The Golden Valley City Council held its first discussion July 13 on the proposed 2011 City budget, which shows overall expenditures decreasing by \$63,200, or .42 percent. Since 2008, the City has decreased expenditures by \$382,081.

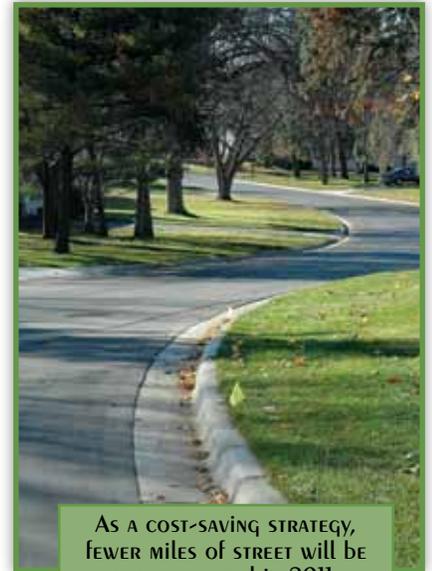
Budget discussions began in February with a workshop where Council and staff considered the economic climate and its effect on City finances. Some challenges have included:

- an 8.7 percent overall decrease in residential and commercial property values
- three years (2009-2011) of levy limits
- historically low interest earnings
- declines in permit revenue
- cuts from State budget shortfall (unallotment)
- no increase in wages and salaries in 2010

The City's 2011 proposed budget includes reducing the miles of streets to be reconstructed in the 2011 Pavement Management Program. This would reduce the amount of bonded debt levied for 2011. Other cost-saving strategies include delayed rehiring upon retirements and delayed capital and equipment purchases. The City also participates in money-saving partnerships, consortiums, and group purchasing.

Future budgets look to follow a similar path. Once again, the League of Minnesota Cities has warned cities not to anticipate improvement in the state's economic condition for a while. The state budget will likely be facing another deficit into the 2012-2013 biennium.

Minnesota law requires cities to adopt a budget annually. The City of Golden Valley prepares a two-year budget to help with upcoming financial needs and forecasts. The proposed biennial budget includes General Fund expenditures, General Fund revenues, and the 2011-2012 CIP for Parks, Buildings, and Equipment. Other funds that do not require a levy will be available in September.



AS A COST-SAVING STRATEGY, FEWER MILES OF STREET WILL BE RECONSTRUCTED IN 2011.

City Receives Government Finance Award

For the 22rd consecutive year, the Government Finance Officer's Association (GFOA) has awarded the City of Golden Valley a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR), this time for its 2008 Annual Financial Report.

The GFOA established the CAFR Program in 1945. Its goal is to encourage and assist state and local governments to go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles and to prepare comprehensive annual financial reports that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure. The award recognizes individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal. Golden Valley has received the award every year since 1987.

The City's 2009 Financial Report is currently being reviewed. Awards for 2009 will be announced in Spring 2011.

For the 2011 budget, in September the Council will approve a proposed levy that will be used for the Truth in Taxation (TNT) notices that are sent out in November. The final levy and budget will be approved in December for 2011 property tax statements. The schedule for the 2011-2012 proposed General Budget is available online at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/budget.html.

For updates to the General Fund budget, check the City website at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/publish.html. Information is also available at City Hall and the Golden Valley Library. Questions? Contact City Finance Director Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010 or svirnig@ci.golden-valley.mn.us.

GVHSF Taking Funding Applications

The Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF), which is comprised of community volunteers, helps fund several nonprofit agencies that serve Golden Valley residents in need (see below). For 2010, the Foundation contributed \$40,500.

The GVHSF will review funding requests and allocate available funds using the following guidelines:

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

Funding applications are due Aug 27, 2010, at 4:30 pm. Pick up applications at City Hall or Brookview Community Center or download from the City's website. If you want more information or would like to make a tax deductible contribution, call 763-512-2340. 



Application Deadline:
AUG 27, 2010, 4:30 pm

GVHSF Helps Fund Community Programs

The Golden Valley Human Services Foundation helps fund several nonprofit agencies that serve Golden Valley residents in need.

- *Community Mediation Services* provides respectful, confidential, and accessible mediation services.
- *Crisis Connection* provides mental health telephone counseling to people with personal and family problems and crises.
- *Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery* provides shelter care for children up to age six for families dealing with stress or crisis that need time away from children to stabilize themselves.
- *Home Free* provides battered women and their children with safety, support, and shelter, a 24-hour crisis line, and community advocacy.
- *Northwest Suburban Dinner At Your Door* provides nourishing meals to home bound people unable to afford a home-cooked meal.
- *PRISM* provides families in need with food, financial assistance, transportation, and other services in times of financial hardships.
- *Senior Community Services HOME Program* offers services to help elders remain independent in their homes.
- *Senior Community Services Outreach* provides in-home counseling and case management to help frail elders remain independent.
- *TreeHouse* provides guidance to teens and families during difficult times.
- *YMCA* provides programs that build strong kids, strong families, and strong communities.

HRC Promotes U of M Human Rights Video Contest

The Golden Valley Human Rights Commission is promoting a video contest sponsored by the University of Minnesota Human Rights Center.

The contest aims to educate the public and encourage dialogue and action to eliminate race, class, and place disparities in Minnesota. Twin Cities students grades 8–12 are asked to produce a short (no longer than two minutes) film focusing on an issue related to these disparities. The film can be a public service announcement, music video, comedy sketch, or other short video format, and it should frame the problem in clear terms and offer possible solutions.

Entries can be submitted by individuals or by a team. Each participant must mail required entry, consent, and release forms, and entries must include a copy of the video on either CD or DVD. Entries must include signed consent forms for all minors appearing in the video as well as relevant permissions for any copyrighted materials used. Entries become the property of the University of Minnesota Human Rights Center during and after the contest and may be used for promotional purposes.

Awards will be presented in four categories: Most Innovative Youth Action Award, Most Compelling and Clear Message Award, Most Original and Creative Presentation Award, and Best Quality Production Award.

The winning entry in each category will receive one digital video camera (regardless of whether an individual or a team entered). The Most Innovative Youth Action Award winner will also receive a cash prize of \$100.

Send entries to the University of Minnesota Human Rights Center, Attn: Natela Jordan, Walter F. Mondale Hall, 229 19th Ave S, N-120, Minneapolis, MN 55455. Entries must be postmarked by Oct 14, 2010.

Questions? E-mail or call Natela Jordan at home@umn.edu or 612-625-2857. Contest details can be downloaded at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/HRC.htm. 

Get Ready For Mighty Tidy Day

Saturday, Oct 9, 2010
8 am–1 pm
 at Brookview Park
 (south of Hwy 55 at Winnetka Ave)

Golden Valley's annual Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day is just the place to unload your unwanted junk. Old mattresses and sofas, broken bicycles, ancient appliances, unwanted tires, outdated computers and televisions—every year this stuff piles up. Now's the time to plan for disposal.

Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day provides a monitored site to dispose of items residents no longer use, that cannot be donated, and that can litter homes and yards and become a nuisance. However, hazardous waste (used motor oil, asbestos, cleaning solvents, pool chemicals, etc) are not accepted. For information about how to dispose of this and other problem waste, check the recycling information on Hennepin County's website at www.hennepin.us.

To participate in Mighty Tidy Day, you must be a Golden Valley resident (proof of residency will be required at the entrance). Fees apply. Look for the September/October CityNews or go to the City website (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us) for more information.

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
Labor Day	Sat, Sept 12
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 28
Christmas	Sat, Dec 26
New Year's	Fri, Dec 31
Memorial Day '11	Sat, June 4
July 4 '11	Sat, July 9

Missed Pick Ups

If your recycling is missed on Friday, call Waste Management at 952-890-1100 before noon on the following Monday.

If you have specific recycling questions, call 763-593-8030.

What You Can And Should Recycle



Sometimes it's easy to forget what you can and can't recycle. But with today's technology, it's more stuff than you might think.

Additionally, Waste Management, Golden Valley's residential recycling contractor, is now accepting plastic coated carton packaging, such as milk cartons, juice boxes, and cartons of soup and broth. **To recycle these new materials, rinse the cartons and remove twist caps before placing in your recycling bin.**

Below is a visual aid of everything in your home you can recycle.



PLASTIC BOTTLES
(WITH NECKS)



ALUMINUM &
STEEL CANS



GLASS BOTTLES
& JARS



PAPERBOARD
(CEREAL BOXES, ETC)



CARDBOARD



PLASTIC COATED
CARTONS



Junk Mail &
OFFICE PAPER



NEWSPAPERS



PHONE BOOKS



MAGAZINES



BROWN PAPER
BAGS

Bassett Creek Stabilization Project To Begin This Fall

To protect local water quality, the Bassett Creek Water Management Commission (BCWMC) will continue Bassett Creek bank stabilization efforts this fall. The upcoming project, set for a stretch of Bassett Creek from the Golden Valley/Crystal boundary through the Briarwood Nature Area to Regent Ave, will minimize and help control creek erosion.

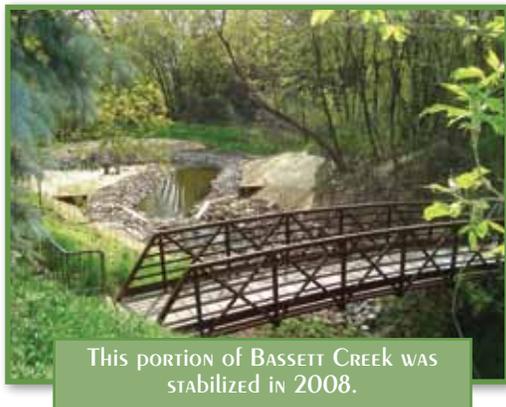
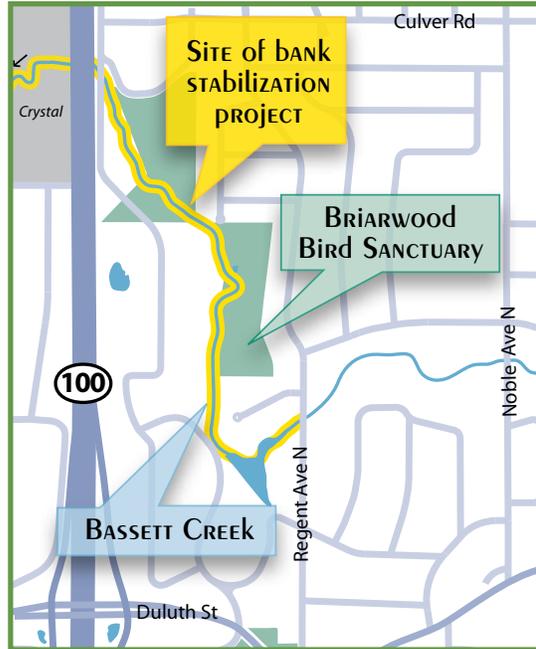
Similar to many other urban streams, Bassett Creek suffers from erosion caused by increased runoff. Over time, erosion builds up and in turn pollutes Sweeney Lake and other local waterways. The stabilization project, with an estimated cost of about \$630,000, extends along 5,100 feet of Bassett Creek. This total includes \$476,200 within Golden Valley and \$159,900 in Crystal. The project is funded by the BCWMC and a grant from Hennepin County.

Bank stabilization involves using a heavy layer of field stone and creating a "buffer zone" along the creek. The buffer zone will be a 15-foot wide area on both sides of the creek that stabilizes the soils and filters pollutants with the help of native plants, grasses, and riprap. Despite all these changes, the stream maintains its original bends and natural flow, says Al Lundstrom, Golden Valley environmental coordinator.

The project will also include stabilizing some of the storm sewers that discharge into the channel and establishing new vegetation in areas disturbed by construction.

Construction is expected to begin this fall or winter and be completed by spring. It continues Golden Valley's efforts to address bank stabilization concerns and to protect water quality. Bassett Creek is one of many local water bodies on the federal impaired waters list (see sidebar). Others include Sweeney Lake, Medicine Lake, and Wirth Lake.

Impaired waters are streams, rivers, and lakes that currently do not meet their designated use and associated water quality standards. Some lakes made the list because of excess nutrients (phosphorus), which can come from dead vegetation and fertilizer.



This portion of Bassett Creek was stabilized in 2008.

Phosphorus promotes algae and surface vegetation that make a lake murky and block sunlight from reaching plants on the lake bottom, plants that provide food for ducks, fish, and other marine life. As these plants decompose, they use up water oxygen, making it harder for aquatic life to survive.

Questions? Contact Public Works at 763-593-8030. 

The Clean Water Act And TMDL

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA), passed in 1972, is the cornerstone of surface water quality protection in the United States (it doesn't deal directly with ground water or water quantity issues). Its goal is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waterways so they can support "the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife and recreation in and on the water."

The CWA uses a variety of tools to sharply reduce direct pollutant discharges into waterways, finance municipal wastewater treatment facilities, and manage polluted runoff. Over the last decade, CWA programs have shifted from a program-by-program, source-by-source, pollutant-by-pollutant approach to more holistic watershed-based strategies, which place equal emphasis on protecting healthy waters and restoring impaired ones. This approach also develops and implements strategies for achieving and maintaining state water quality and other environmental goals.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), establishes the maximum amount of a pollutant a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards for the designated use.

The CWA requires the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to assess all state waterways, formally list as impaired those that fail to meet standards, then conduct a TMDL study for each pollutant cited. The TMDL study is a written plan that analyzes the problem and determines how water quality standards will be attained. It identifies both point and non-point sources of each pollutant. Water bodies may have several TMDLs, one for each pollutant, and respective local governments examine and implement ways to reduce pollutants so the water bodies fall within CWA water quality standards (for example, the article at left explains a creek bank stabilization project that will help reduce pollutants in Bassett Creek). TMDL studies are being conducted on Sweeney, Medicine, and Wirth Lakes. Golden Valley contributes storm water to all three.

Source: Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov)

Recreation OPPORTUNITIES

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

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Tap & Ballet (ages 4–18)—Sat mornings beginning Sept 18, \$38.

Kids' Club (ages 3–5)—New classes start Sept 13. Mon and Wed or Tue and Thur, 9:30–11 am. Brookview Community Center, \$44.

Drama Club (ages 8–14)—Mon and Wed, 6–7:30 pm, Sept 20–Nov 17, Brookview Community Center, \$65.

Monster Mash Teen Dance (grades 5–7)—Fri, Oct 29, 7–9:30 pm. \$5 before Oct 28, \$8 at the door.

Preschool Playtime—Start Sept 17, Fridays, 10–11:30 am, \$3/child.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Yoga & Pilates—Tues, Sept 14–Oct 26, 5:30–6:40 pm, Brookview Community Center, \$70.

Yoga—Tue, Oct 5–Dec 7, 11 am–noon, Brookview Community Center, \$56.

Tae Kwon Do—Tues, Sept 14–Oct 19, 6–6:45 pm, Brookview Community Center, \$56.

Little Tigers Self Defense—Tues, Sept 14–Oct 19, 5:30–6 pm, Brookview Community Center, \$49.

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

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

Teaching Dance Keeps GV Instructor Young

When Toni Nelson started teaching dance classes for Golden Valley's Park and Recreation Department, disco was the hot music to step to.

In the 1980s, it was Michael Jackson. In the '90s it was hip hop. In the last decade dance music took a retro turn, dipping back into trends of the past, even 1930s big band.

But one thing that has stayed consistent over Nelson's 36 years as Golden Valley's tap and ballet teacher is the enthusiasm of her students and the joy they find in dance, whatever music they groove to.

"The classes are a wonderful way to find out if your child wants to dance," Nelson says. "And it's terrific exercise and a lifelong sport."

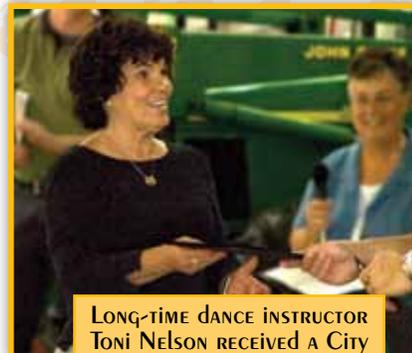
At about \$35 per eight classes, Golden Valley tap and ballet offers a reasonably priced extracurricular activity to students ages three and up.

"We'll take them as young as three and then they go all the way up to 16, and at that point they'll try out for high school dance line," Nelson says.

Classes are held Saturdays at Brookview Community Center and focus on beginning, intermediate, advanced, and master levels, both in tap and ballet.

"When I was a kid," Nelson says, "we could pick one extracurricular activity to be in. When I was three I choose to dance and I never stopped. I teach dance because I love kids and it keeps me young."

Classes begin in September. For more information, call 763-512-2345. 



LONG-TIME DANCE INSTRUCTOR
TONI NELSON RECEIVED A CITY
SERVICE AWARD IN 2008.

Fall Youth Soccer Begins In Sept

Fall soccer is designed to promote basic soccer skills, player positioning, and rule interpretation, and now is a great time to consider registering for Golden Valley's fall youth soccer program.

Each team requires two volunteer coaches. Coaches are parents and college and high school students. If a volunteer coach is not found for a team, refunds will be issued.

Junior fall participants, from kindergarten to first grade, are organized on randomly selected teams of 12. There may be one pre-season practice scheduled. All participants play equal amounts of time and standings are not kept. Games are played at Hampshire Park.

Second grade teams will play games and practice on soccer fields in Golden Valley.

Third- through fifth-grade teams will play games in Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, and Crystal and will practice in Golden Valley.

Registration deadline is Aug 13, 2010. For more information or to sign up, call Park and Rec at 763-512-2345. 

Local Civic Groups Help Out, Give Back

If you're looking for ways to get involved in your community, do some service work, and meet others who live here, several local civic groups offer a variety of options. Three are highlighted below; watch for information on others in upcoming issues of *CityNews*.

GOLDEN VALLEY WOMEN'S CLUB

The Golden Valley Women's Club has more than 80 members supporting community service efforts around Golden Valley. Besides hosting speakers and social events, the group raises money and donates to causes such as scholarship programs, PRISM, and Golden Valley's Park and Recreation Department for new equipment and other services.

"If you're new to the community, this is a great group to get involved with," says Barb Bailey, a club member since 1984. "It has been a great way to make friends."

The Women's Club will have its annual kick-off meeting Sept 9 at the Golden Valley Country Club. First-timers are welcome. For information, contact Bailey at 612-861-4394.



THE WOMEN'S CLUB HELPS MAKE CONCERTS IN THE PARK POSSIBLE.

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN OPTIMIST CLUB

The Northwest Suburban Optimist Club is set up specifically to support youth programs. The club tends to focus on disadvantaged youth but will also get involved in broader programs, such as the City's annual Junior Safety Camp.

"The goal of the Optimists is to bring out the best in kids," says David Herbeck, club president. "We do that in a number of ways, such as funding projects or volunteering directly."

The Optimists meet for noon lunch at the Golden Valley Country Club every Wednesday except the first Wednesday of the month, when they meet for 7 am breakfast at the Perkins on I-394. If you're a first-timer coming to learn more about the club, lunch is on the Optimists, Herbeck says. For information or to get involved, contact Herbeck at 763-253-1114.



JUNIOR SAFETY CAMP IS SUPPORTED BY THE OPTIMIST CLUB.

GOLDEN VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

The Golden Valley Garden Club's mission is to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening, encourage conservation of natural resources, and encourage all forms of home or community gardening. The daytime club and an evening offshoot have about 45 members who also tackle public gardening and weeding projects around town.

The Evening Garden Club, set up for those who can't participate during the day, started about a year ago. Members are currently working on maintaining existing public gardens within the City as well as boulevard and sidewalk plantings. Later this summer they are organizing a public weeding event followed by free ice cream.

For more information or to get involved, contact Barb Ego at 763-544-0897.



THE GARDEN CLUB TACKLES PUBLIC GARDENING PROJECTS.

Senior Stuff

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

LIVING WISE AND WELL

Aug 5: "Laughter IS the Best Medicine," 1 pm, Calvary Cooperative, 7600 Golden Valley Rd.

MONEY MATTERS

Aug 19: "Common Cents When Buying a Car," Sam Bell, BellMobile, 10-11 am.

FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Wed, Aug 25, 11-11:30 am.

Coffee Talk

Aug 25: "My Purse/Wallet Was Stolen! What Do I Do Now?" Council on Crime and Justice, 9:45 am, \$2 payable at door. Please register at least one day in advance.

Oils AND Acrylics With Judy

Looking for a creative outlet? Instructor Judith Baron will teach you to paint pictures in acrylics or oil. Mondays (no class 9/6), 9:30-11:30 am. \$39 for a 6-punch card. Punch cards may be purchased at the Recreation office.

Trips AND Outings

- Aug 12: "How To Talk Minnesotan" at the Plymouth Playhouse, \$50 (register by July 26). Bus leaves GV City Hall/Calvary Coop at 11 am, returns 3:30 pm.
- Aug 18: "Sweet Wisconsin Discoveries," River Falls, WI, \$46 (register by Aug 2). Bus leaves GV City Hall/Calvary Coop at 9:10 am, returns 3:15 pm.

For more information, contact:
Golden Valley Seniors Program
 Brookview Community Center
 200 Brookview Parkway
 Golden Valley, MN 55426
 763-512-2339
 8 am-5 pm, Monday-Friday

NATURAL GOLDEN VALLEY

The Caterpillar Wins Again

This year marked the 18th anniversary of Golden Valley's *Views of the Valley* photo contest, which is meant to celebrate the City's beauty, uniqueness, and quality of life as viewed by citizens through their camera lenses. Of the 90 entries, judges chose the photos on this page as the best of the bunch.

Participants could enter up to three photos total in any of three categories: "Natural Golden Valley" (landscapes, flora, fauna, etc), "Golden Valley Lifestyle" (cityscapes, buildings, people, and activities), and "Enhanced Golden Valley" (photos significantly altered by editing software). All first place winners and the People's Choice award winner receive a cash prize, certificates of recognition, and publication of their photos in various City public information pieces. Additionally, honorable mentions were awarded to five photos that were also judged as exemplary.

Overall grand prize was awarded to Felix Norman for "Free Lunch!," which also won first place for Natural Golden Valley. This is the second year in a row that a caterpillar has grabbed top honors. Three honorable mentions were awarded in the Natural category, which accounted for two-thirds of all entries.

First place for Golden Valley Lifestyle was awarded to Greg Larson for "Golden Valley Days Dazzler." Two honorable mentions were awarded in this category.

In the Enhanced Golden Valley category, first place was awarded to Jeff Frederick for "Rush Hour In Briarwood Nature Area On Bassett Creek."

The People's Choice award, determined by voting in person at City Hall and on the City's website, went to Janice Laulainen for "Summer Fun." This is Laulainen's fourth People's Choice award since 2000. Her photo also received an honorable mention in the Golden Valley Lifestyle category.

Judges for 2010 were Jerry Beck, City of New Hope Communications Coordinator; Pat Brink, Brink Public Relations; Lynne Dahl-Fleming, Design For Print & Web; and Sue Webber, New Hope Golden Valley SunPost.

To view a gallery of winners from past contests, go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/PhotoContest/.

1st
Overall

1st



Free Lunch!
Felix Norman

honorable mentions



Looking For Mama
Ray Anderson



Golden Wings
Karen Nelson



Dragonfly At Rest
Kate Larson



GOLDEN VALLEY LIFESTYLE



1st

Golden Valley Days Dazzler
Greg Larson

ENHANCED GOLDEN VALLEY

1st



Rush Hour In Briarwood Nature Area On Bassett Creek
Jeff Frederick

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

honorable mentions



Playing Through The Glass
Kalin Kauppila



Summer Fun
Janice Laulainen



Next year's contest deadline will be June 8, 2011.

Bike-A-Long

Sunday, Aug 8 • 1 pm

Take a couple hours and enjoy a guided tour through some of Golden Valley's trails and less well-known areas with police Sgt Denny Arons, who heads up the bike patrol unit.

Arons will guide you through the Hennepin County trail system but take many detours to show points of interest—some recreational and some that are scenes of past crimes that have been investigated by your police department.

The 15-mile ride will go at a very doable pace, with a refreshment stop or two to keep those pedals pedaling.

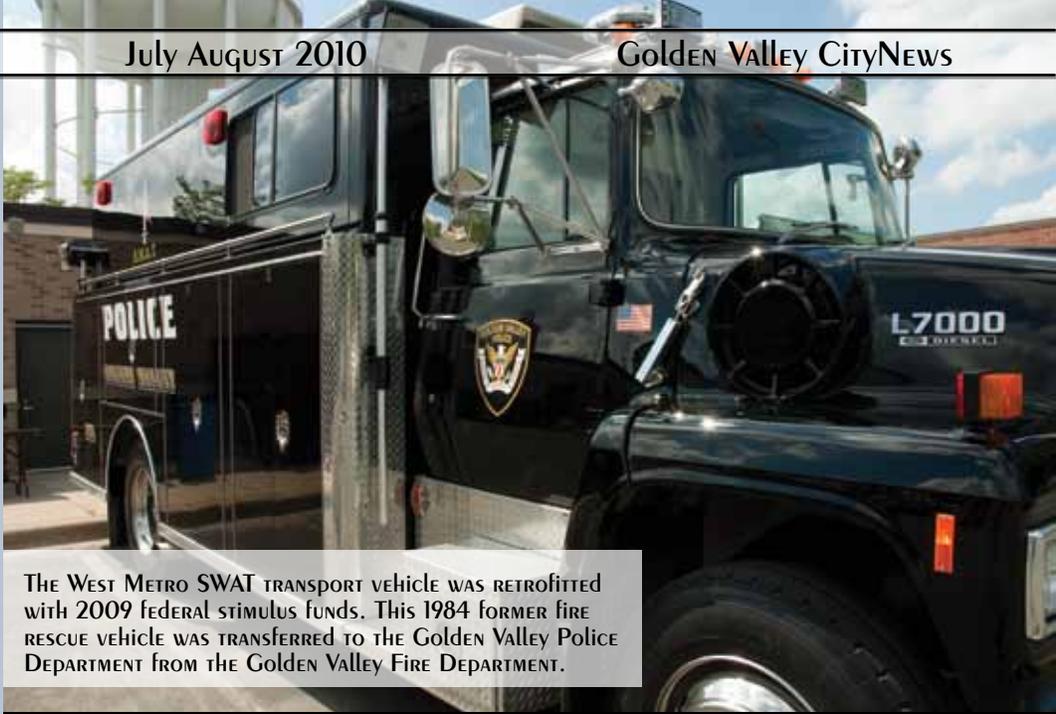
The tour will begin at the Golden Valley Police Department (7800 Golden Valley Road) at 1 pm Sunday, Aug 8, and return there around 4 pm.

Space is limited so register soon! Participants must be at least 18 years old and provide their own bicycle (don't forget your helmet). The event will be rescheduled in the case of rain or inclement weather.

This light-hearted and fun journey is one you won't want to miss. To register, contact GVPD at 763-593-8079 or police@ci.golden-valley.mn.us.



Sgt ARONS



THE WEST METRO SWAT TRANSPORT VEHICLE WAS RETROFITTED WITH 2009 FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDS. THIS 1984 FORMER FIRE RESCUE VEHICLE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE GOLDEN VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM THE GOLDEN VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT.

West Metro SWAT Team Serves Four Cities

The West Metro Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT) team is an elite response unit specially trained to perform police operations such as high-risk search warrants, engaging barricaded suspects and heavily-armed criminals, hostage rescue, and more.

Led by Golden Valley Police Commander Nate Gove, the multi-department team includes 29 law enforcement officers and a paramedic from the Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and New Hope Police Departments.

Team members are selected based on work performance and competency and are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. After completing a 40-hour SWAT operations course, team members are given specific assignments and sometimes cross-trained to perform other duties. Team members train monthly, with a four-day annual training session at Camp Ripley. SWAT team groups include an entry team, chemical munitions/perimeter officers, snipers, breaching officers, reconnaissance, and negotiators.

Besides its highly trained members, the SWAT team has other tools to help in critical situations. Its recently acquired SWAT vehicle (see photo above), stationed in Golden Valley, is larger and far more practical than the vehicle it replaced, says Gove. Because it was formerly a fire rescue vehicle, it has many storage compartments that allow ready transport of personnel and equipment. It can quickly and safely transport more than 15 SWAT officers and all of their equipment to critical incidents.

"The SWAT team is an additional police resource available to respond to and help resolve dangerous situations as safely as possible," says Gove. "Golden Valley is fortunate to have it."



Upcoming Classes

Watch for these topics and more!

- Hennepin County Crime Lab
- Distracted Driving
- Self-Defense
- Identifying Drugs & Thugs



Neighborhood Watch Meetings

ZONE 1
Mon, Sept 20

ZONE 2
Tues, Oct 12

ZONE 3
Tues, Nov 16

7-8 pm
Golden Valley Police Dept, 7800 Golden Valley Rd

Firefighters Train For Harrowing Situations

When inside a building that's on fire, even a single breath of the toxic air can cause permanent damage or death. This is something every firefighter must be mindful of every moment they're inside a burning facility. And it takes months of practice before they can competently face those situations.

That's why when someone signs on to be a Golden Valley paid on-call firefighter, he or she immediately begins extensive training in the Fire Academy to prepare for all that an emergency situation can throw at them.

"Golden Valley firefighters dedicate a lot of time and effort to protecting the community," says Stephen Baker, fire education specialist. "But firefighters get a lot out of it that they can take into their personal life. They learn critical thinking skills that can be very beneficial at any time in their life. It's very rewarding."



FIREFIGHTER TRAINING INCLUDES SIMULATED FIRE ATTACKS (TOP PHOTO) AND AUTO RESCUES.

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING FOR 2010

The Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) focuses on different aspects of training every year. This year firefighters will be practicing how to use their air tanks in high stress situations. They will also be working on simulated fire attacks, firefighter safety and survival, and auto extrication.

Auto extrications are particularly tricky these days, Baker says, because car technology and construction is constantly changing. The addition of safety devices, such as airbags, and increased computer technology creates a continuous need for training in the art of auto extrication.

But it's these challenges that also make being a firefighter so satisfying and rewarding, Baker says.

Added Benefits

The Fire Academy for new recruits not only strengthens individual firefighters, it helps fire departments strengthen connections across city boundaries. "The fire departments that conduct the training have a lot of opportunity to work together on a regular basis," Baker says. "It's an opportunity to build relationships with surrounding communities."

If you're at all interested in being a firefighter, Baker recommends coming to an information meeting (see box).

For further questions, contact Baker at 763-593-3977.

Join Up. Give Back. Stand Out.

Joining the Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) is a real skills-driven commitment that will leave you prepared to face any number of unique challenges, both as a firefighter and a citizen, says Stephen Baker, fire education specialist.

First-year firefighters attend two to three nights of training per week, for 160 hours of training in the first six months. They'll come away with new or refined skills in search and rescue, emergency medical, hazmat management, auto extrication, critical thinking under pressure, emergency vehicle driving, and of course, firefighting.

The GVFD is seeking men and women to join its long tradition of community service by becoming paid, on-call firefighters. There are two ways to serve. If you live within six minutes of a Golden Valley fire station, apply to become a night-time/weekend responder. If you live in another community but work in Golden Valley, check out Corporate Call, a collaboration with local businesses to recruit daytime responders (available Monday-Friday, 6 am-6 pm).

Attend A Firefighter Information Meeting

Thurs, August 19
9 am, 6:30 pm

Fire Station 1, 7800
Golden Valley Rd.

**Join up.
Give back.
Stand out.**



goldenvalleyfire.com

DOUGLAS DR CHANGES SET FOR SUMMER

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. A larger reconstruction project is planned for 2016 in cooperation with Hennepin County (see article at right).

SUMMER MAINTENANCE

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 identified in the City's Douglas Dr Corridor Study.

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.

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). 

Douglas Drive Franchise Fee Public Hearings

Tuesday, Aug 17
7 pm

Tuesday, Sept 7
7 pm

Golden Valley City Hall
Council Chambers
7800 Golden Valley Rd

City Considers Franchise Fee For Douglas Dr Project

Last year a comprehensive study of Golden Valley's Douglas Dr corridor identified several ways to improve driver and pedestrian safety as well as traffic efficiency. Some of those improvements will be implemented this summer (see sidebar at left). Meanwhile, the City is partnering with Hennepin County to plan a 2016 reconstruction project that would add turn lanes, allow for shoulders and bike lanes, improve sidewalks, install street lights, and place existing above-ground utilities underground.

The project has an estimated cost of about \$20 million, with Golden Valley responsible for roughly \$9.5 million. Hennepin County will pay for about \$10 million of the roadway work, design, and right-of-way acquisition. Preliminary project design has begun with aid from 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.

PROJECT FUNDING

Golden Valley is considering to pay for its share of the cost with Xcel Energy franchise fees. For residents and small commercial properties with non-demand services, the monthly fee would be \$2. The fee would be \$22.50 for small commercial properties with demand services. Large commercial properties would pay a \$206 monthly flat fee. The City Council will take public comment on the proposed franchise fee at its Aug 17 and Sept 7 meetings. If the Council votes to approve the fee, it will go in to effect in late 2010 or early 2011.

Because of levy limits on property taxes, funding this project through utility franchise fees is the most feasible payment option. If the Council does not approve the franchise fee, the City would need to secure another funding source to pay for its local share. Given the scope of the reconstruction, the costs cannot be financed through reserve funds. Council is considering adopting a franchise fee and dedicating the proceeds to capital projects.

This Xcel Energy franchise fee will not affect bills from CenterPoint Energy, Comcast, Qwest, or any other utility company. The costs of the reconstruction may fluctuate due to inflation and other variables over the years. The franchise fees will remain in effect until all costs can be repaid.

Some other cities using franchise fees to cover project costs include Brooklyn Center, Hopkins, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, Monticello, New Hope, Robbinsdale, and St Louis Park.

For more information about the Douglas Dr project or proposed franchise fees, call Public Works at 763-593-8030. 



CHANGES ARE PROPOSED TO IMPROVE SAFETY AND TRAFFIC EFFICIENCY ON DOUGLAS DR.

Storm Clean-Up: Costs For Citizens And The City

After a thunderstorm damaged part of Golden Valley in late June, the City Council affirmed City policy that public funds are used to address storm damage on public property. Some citizens asked why, if they are paying taxes, they aren't receiving government help for private property. Since City staff gets this question after every storm that comes through Golden Valley, an explanation is in order.

Residents' property tax dollars fund basic City services like street and park maintenance, traffic safety, the police and fire departments, inspections, and more.

After a storm, the City's main responsibility is to ensure public safety by clearing streets, boulevards, parks, and other public property, including obstructions in Bassett Creek. Such work is funded with tax dollars, but it would be financially impossible with current budgets for local government to take care of private properties as well.

Managing day-to-day services is the City's number one priority, especially in this economic climate, says City Manager Tom Burt. Up to this point, Golden Valley residents have been mostly shielded from City budget cuts, but every department has been straining to maintain established levels of service while working with fewer staff and fewer resources.

In the last three decades, the City stepped in twice to help residents with brush removal, both times after storms when damages were so widespread nearly everyone in town was affected. Otherwise, homeowners have always been responsible for removing brush and fallen trees from their own property.

To help, Golden Valley offers programs like the annual spring brush pick-up and fall leaf drop-off, which are funded through recycling fees (other cities' "free" yard waste drop-off sites are similarly funded). The Maple Grove Yard Waste Site is "free" to residents of participating cities, but those cities pay a monthly fee plus a tonnage fee for everything dropped off by their residents. Cities recoup the costs of resident participation through taxes or fees to citizens.

Storms happen year-round in Minnesota. Because the City is unable to fund private property brush pick-ups after every storm, residents need to plan ahead and consider their yard waste disposal options: use existing City programs, hire a yard service, add yard waste pick-up to their garbage plan, or use private drop-off sites. ~



How To Hire A Good Tree Contractor

Hiring a tree removal or trimming contractor deserves the same consideration and caution that goes into selecting a home builder. A mistake can be expensive and long lasting, but the right choice can assure health, beauty, and a longer life for your trees. Use the following tips for optimal results.

- Start by checking the phone directory under Trees or Tree Service. Ask friends and neighbors for recommendations.
- Beware of door-knockers. Most reputable companies have all the work they can handle without going door-to-door.
- Ask for certificates of insurance, including proof of liability for personal and property damage and worker's compensation. Call the insurance company to make certain the policy is current. Under some circumstances, you can be held financially responsible if an uninsured worker is hurt on your property.
- Ask for references and talk with former clients. Experience, education, and a good reputation are signs of a good arborist.
- Have more than one arborist look at your job and give you estimates. Don't expect one contractor to lower a bid to match another's, and be willing to pay for the estimate if necessary. Three or more cost estimates are worth the effort.
- Ask if the arborist will use climbing spikes. A good arborist will not use climbing spikes if the tree is to remain in the landscape. ~

firewood facts

To prevent the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer, a state quarantine is in place for Hennepin, Ramsey, and Houston Counties. This means any ash material (trees, logs, branches, chips, mulch, etc) and all hardwood (non-coniferous) firewood is not to be transported outside these three counties. This material may enter the quarantined counties and travel within them; however, once inside the quarantine, it is not allowed to leave.

It's essential that Golden Valley residents consider the quarantine when purchasing or transporting firewood.

Official emergency quarantine language can be found at www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/eabquarantine.htm. ~

The City Forester

Golden Valley's City forester is responsible for maintaining and caring for public trees and inspecting diseased trees and other plant infestations throughout the community. If you have questions for the City forestry staff, call Public Works at 763-593-8030.



photo by Anne Oeldorf-Hirsch

STATE LAW Aids TEEN DRIVING

Minnesota has several laws aimed at helping teens hone driving skills and reducing exposure to high-risk situations, particularly driving at night and carrying multiple passengers.

- For the first six-months of licensure, teens cannot drive between midnight and 5 am except when accompanied by a licensed driver age 25 or older, driving between home and a job, driving to/from home and a school event for which there is no school transportation, or driving for employment purposes.
- Teens are also permitted only one passenger under age 20, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- All drivers and passengers must wear a seat belt or be properly secured in a child restraint. A seat belt ticket can cost from \$25 to more than \$100.
- It is illegal for drivers under age 18 to use a cellular/wireless phone, whether handheld or hands-free, except to call 911 in an emergency.
- It is illegal for drivers of all ages to compose, read, or send text messages or access the Internet on a wireless device while on the road.
- It is illegal for persons under age 21 to drive after consuming any amount of alcohol. Teens who violate this law cannot regain a license until age 18.

Violating these laws is a misdemeanor.

The laws were enacted in August 2008. According to an April 28, 2010 *Star-Tribune* news story, Minnesota Department of Public Safety data showed a 17.7 percent decrease in fatal and severe crashes and a 9.3 percent decrease in total crashes involving 16- and 17-year-olds from 2008 to 2009.

For details about the teen driver laws, visit www.mndriveinfo.org.

Driving While Distracted (DWD): The New DUI

It's a fact—distracted drivers cause more accidents than intoxicated drivers. According to the Department of Public Safety, driver inattention accounts for about 12 percent of single-vehicle accidents and roughly 23 percent of all multi-vehicle crashes, with drivers under age 20 having the highest proportion of distraction-related fatal crashes. In 2008, more than 20 percent of all crashes involved some type of distraction. In all, nearly 6,000 people died in crashes involving a distracted driver and more than half a million people were injured.



THE BEHAVIOR

Most of us have succumbed to the behavior at some point. Changing radio stations, eating or drinking, talking to passengers, talking on a cell phone, or using a navigation system all qualify as distractions while driving, and they're just a few of the more common behaviors seen on the road.

We've probably all at least witnessed other distractions that should be avoided completely, such as texting and internet browsing, watching a video, or reading (including maps). People have also been known to change clothes, put in contact lenses or eye drops, or do personal grooming (makeup, hair, shaving, manicure/pedicure activities) while driving. And people seem to think nothing of disciplining children, picking up items from the floor, or holding pets in their laps while driving.

According to the US Department of Transportation, distracted driving is "any non-driving activity a person engages in that has the potential to distract him or her from the primary task of driving and increase the risk of crashing." There are three categories of distractions—visual (takes your eyes off the road), manual (takes your hands off the wheel), and cognitive (takes your mind off driving). Texting, the poster child of distracted driving, involves all three. Using any hand-held device while driving increases the likelihood of having an injury crash by as much as four times.

The most common distraction is cell phone use, says Golden Valley Police Sgt Dave Born. After decades of patrolling and observing drivers, he's found it strikingly obvious that using cell phones leads to inattentive driving. "And the vast majority of calls don't need to take place in the car," adds Born. "It's just social calling."

THE COST

Born says distracted drivers are easy to spot. They may not be driving in a straight line, and they'll likely hesitate when a red light turns green.

Maybe they're doing something as innocent as changing a radio station or a CD. Or maybe they're checking their makeup in the mirror, or eating a sandwich. Sometimes it's more bizarre. Once, Born pulled over a real-estate agent who was sifting through a stack of business files in her lap while driving. That cost her a ticket.

Every squad car has a camera on it that captures images of drivers with their heads down and their cars weaving. Tickets for distracted drivers hold the same severity level as speeding tickets, which means a hefty fine and a spike in your insurance.

THE SOLUTION

To prevent being a distracted driver, keep both hands on the wheel and pay attention to the road. If you must use a cell phone while driving, buy a hands-free headset. This is especially important in the evening and early morning when light is scarce.

For more information about distracted driving, visit www.distraction.gov.

Make Sure To Hire A Contractor You Can Trust

For many situations where a person's left vulnerable and overwhelmed, there's another person looking to take advantage.

Severe storms and weather damage, for example, can put homeowners in a state of distress, making them targets for shady contractors.

Don't let yourself fall into that trap. If a person comes to your door claiming to be a contractor who wants to repair home damage, ask for a license, proof of insurance, and a business card (by law, all advertising and business cards must contain a license number). Once you get that number, you can contact the Department of Labor and Industry at 651-284-5065 or 1-800-342-5354 to verify if the contractor is currently licensed and to find out if there is a disciplinary history. Also, check for a local phone number and address.

Legitimate contractors will give you time to contact other homeowners they've worked for and to check references. A shady contractor will try to pressure you into making a hasty decision. If someone demands full pay up front or a "one-day only" deal, close the door. If they refuse to sign a contract that binds them to completing the job, turn them down. A "cheap, cash-up-front" pitch is a warning sign.

Also watch out for people who come to your door claiming they "just happened to be in the neighborhood," or "have materials left over from another job." The most reliable contractors are the ones you've researched and contacted yourself.

If you haven't noticed any damage to your house due to the storm, be sure to double-check. Consider contacting your insurance company to inspect your property.

GETTING A PERMIT

When you find a contractor you trust, make sure they have the proper building permits. If you're doing the job yourself, apply for the building permits as soon as possible.

For the convenience of residents and businesses in Golden Valley, several building permit applications and attachments are available online (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/permits/permitapplications.htm). Simply print the application and attachments, fill out the required information, and return it to City Hall.

Or pick up a permit application at City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Road.

For each permit application requiring a plan review, allow five to 10 working days for review completion.

For building/home improvement questions, call Inspections at 763-593-8090.

For questions about grading, site work, driveway, curb cut, or boulevard (right-of-way) work, call Public Works at 763-593-8030. 



CHECK YOUR HOUSE FOR DAMAGE AFTER A STORM.

photo by Brian Robinson

DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITORS NEED CITY LICENSE

Whenever someone comes to your home selling a product or service or seeking donations, first ask to see their City of Golden Valley solicitor's license. If they don't have one, ask them to leave and then call 911. Tell the dispatcher an unlicensed solicitor is working in your neighborhood.

Golden Valley City Code requires peddlers and solicitors to obtain a license from the City before going door-to-door and to have the license with them at all times. No one is exempt from this rule, including non-profits. Some groups, like the Girl Scouts, have one group license instead of individual licenses.

People who go door-to-door to distribute literature but who aren't selling anything or engaging the homeowner in conversation do not need a license.

Below are a few considerations for dealing with door-to-door solicitors:

- If you don't want to hear pitches from solicitors, post a "No Solicitors" sign in a prominent spot near your front door.
- If you don't feel comfortable opening your door to a solicitor, don't.
- Solicitors must leave your property when you ask them to. If they don't or if they become aggressive, call 911.
- Don't sign any contracts or make any purchases without first verifying the solicitor's legitimacy. Do your homework!

The City does not recommend or endorse any product or service of solicitors it licenses, nor does it perform background checks as a condition of licensing.

For more information, call the city manager's office at 763-593-8002. 

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

PRSR STD
 U.S. Postage
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 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.

Voting Locations

For the Aug 10 primary election and the Nov 2 general election, you must vote in your own precinct between 7 am and 8 pm. To find your voting location, go to <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>.

- Precinct 1**
NE Fire Station
3700 Golden Valley Rd
- Precinct 2**
Valley Presbyterian Church
3100 North Lilac Dr
- Precinct 3**
Meadowbrook School
5430 Glenwood Ave
- Precinct 4**
LOGIS
5750 Duluth St
- Precinct 5**
SE Fire Station
400 Turners Crossroad S
- Precinct 6**
Golden Valley City Hall
7800 Golden Valley Rd
- Precinct 7**
Christian Life Center
8025 Medicine Lake Rd
- Precinct 8**
Brookview Community Center
200 Brookview Pkwy

*Aug 10 - State
 Primary Election*
*Nov 2 - General
 Election*

Register To Vote Before Or On Election Day

If you're not registered to vote, you should do so by Oct 12 to be on the roster for the Nov 2 general election (the state primary election is Aug 10). You may register by mail or in person by completing a Minnesota Voter Registration Application, available at most government offices and public libraries (and online at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/voterregistration.htm).

You can pick one up at City Hall (7800 Golden Valley Rd), or you may also register directly with the county at:

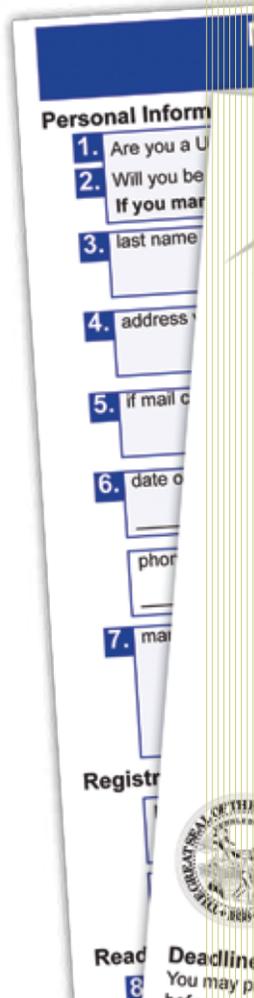
Hennepin County Government Center
 300 South 6th St - Public Service Level
 Minneapolis, MN 55487

You can register to vote on election day at your precinct voting site by bringing one of the following documents to verify your current address:

- valid driver's license or permit (or receipt for either)
- valid Minnesota identification card (or receipt)
- notice of ineffective registration mailed to you from the county auditor or city clerk
- photo ID card with a student fee statement
- current utility bill with your name and address, plus a photo identification card

You may also have a registered voter in your precinct vouch for your residence.

All voters must be at least 18 years old on the day of election, be a citizen of the United States, and have resided in Minnesota for 20 days immediately preceding election day. Other requirements apply; check the MN Voter Registration Application for details. Questions? Call the City at 763-593-8017.



City of
Golden Valley

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www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us

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