

Golden Valley 2010

CITYNEWS

Council Plans To Lower Tax Impact For 2011

At a Council/Manager meeting Nov 9, City Council directed staff to use the remaining Valley Square tax increment funds to reduce the City's debt levy and proposed 2011 property tax levy by \$160,000. On a \$250,000 median home, this will reduce the tax impact on the City's portion by \$12 per year from the amount reported on the proposed property tax statement taxpayers received from Hennepin County in November.



THE PROPERTY TAX INCREASE ON A MEDIAN HOME WILL BE \$12 PER YEAR LESS THAN PREVIOUSLY STATED.

This is a result of a 2009 decision by City Council to close the Valley Square tax increment district a year early, allowing Hennepin County to distribute remaining tax increment funds to the County, City, and school district.

In September, the City Council certified a preliminary 2011 tax levy of \$16,569,450, a 1.48 percent increase from 2010 (a \$25 increase on a median home). Using the tax increment funds will lower the 2011 proposed levy to \$16,409,450, which will be a .50 percent increase from 2010 (a \$13 increase on a median home).

Even though general fund expenditures decreased by \$61,700 for 2011 (the result of not filling two positions, one in street maintenance and one in police), the general fund levy increased by \$207,545 to offset the loss of revenue from building permits, interest earned, and the state unallotment of market value homestead credit (MVHC). This increase also was needed to maintain a balanced budget.

City taxes make up one portion of the entire tax bill. For more information about how your City tax dollars are used or the City's proposed 2011 budget or tax levy, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/budget/taxes/.

GOLDEN VALLEY TURNS 125 HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE

According to *Golden Valley: A History of a Minnesota City*, two of Golden Valley's first non-native settlers were William Jones and John Gearty of Chicopee Falls, MA. It was 1851, and the Minnesota Territory west of the Mississippi River had just been opened to settlers.

After seeing a notice in the *Boston Pilot* about fertile farm land around St Anthony Falls, Jones and Gearty packed up their families and headed west. They traveled by train to Buffalo, NY, took a lake steamer to Detroit, went by train to Chicago, then took a stagecoach to Galena, IL. From there they took a steamboat up the Mississippi to St Paul, followed by a 10-mile stagecoach ride to St Anthony.

They homesteaded near the present intersection of Hwy 100 and Medicine Lake Rd.

Golden Valley: A History of a Minnesota City was published in 1986 by the Golden Valley Historical Society and its Centennial Committee.

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125th Logo Design Contest

Golden Valley's 125th anniversary planning committee is asking the community for help developing a logo to commemorate the City's birthday in 2011. The winning logo will be used on written and electronic materials (banners, apparel, buttons, etc) related to the anniversary.

RULES

- The contest is open to all individuals who reside, work, or attend school in Golden Valley.
- Logo should be appropriately sized, descriptive, visually appealing, and include the words "Golden Valley 125th Anniversary."
- One entry per person.
- Entries may be submitted electronically or on 8½ x 11 paper. There are no color requirements. The City reserves the right to modify the design as needed.

PRIZES

Winners will be announced in January 2011. Winning logos will be awarded with recognition during the year as well as gift certificates from local businesses. ~

Residents Plan City's 125th Anniversary Events

Golden Valley will be 125 years old in 2011, and the community is planning a series of events during the year to commemorate the anniversary, which stems from the City's incorporation as village Dec 16, 1886.

Golden Valley resident Marshall Tanick got things rolling in September with a Bridge Builder's group that met to discuss possibilities. The group is currently brainstorming ideas that include a logo contest, a Golden Valley volunteer day, historical displays, and a Golden Valley Hall of Fame, as well as tweaking some existing community activities to include an anniversary component.

The Valley Volunteer Day would promote various volunteer opportunities around the City and give residents a chance to sign up to get involved, says City Volunteer Coordinator Sandy Werts. It's a great example of how these events are meant to promote the well-being of the community as well as celebrate its history.

Werts says Golden Valley's 125th birthday should be a memorable one that boosts civic pride and community engagement.

"We're going to have a lot of different events, and we're going to need a lot of different people to help put these events together," she adds.

The 125th anniversary planning committee invites members of the public to share ideas and help with all aspects of the celebration. If you're interested, contact Werts at swerts@goldenvalleymn.gov to be put on the group's mailing list, or call her at 763-512-2341. You can also check the City website for upcoming meetings and opportunities to participate. ~



125th Anniversary Logo Contest ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Day Phone _____

Email _____

Age (if under 18) _____

School (if applicable) _____

I agree to let the City of Golden Valley use the material for any purpose in any form.

Signature _____

All entries become the property of the City of Golden Valley and will not be returned.

Deliver complete entries by December 30, 2010 to:

125th Logo Contest—City of Golden Valley
200 Brookview Parkway
Golden Valley, MN 55426
swerts@goldenvalleymn.gov



Dinner At Your Door Volunteers Needed

Northwest Suburban Dinner at Your Door (DAYD) needs 16 volunteer drivers to deliver noon meals Monday through Friday (no holidays) in Golden Valley, New Hope, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and eastern Plymouth.

DAYD sponsors this program for homebound, elderly, convalescent, or disabled residents who cannot prepare nutritious hot meals for themselves. It is supported by a grant from the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation, area churches, and community organizations.

The meals are prepared by Crystal Community Center Senior Dining Program and North Memorial Medical Center.

If you have a car and valid driver's license and can donate approximately 1½ hours of your time weekly, monthly, or as a substitute driver, contact Joanne at 763-531-1183 (Crystal Community Center) or Becky at 763-520-7386 (North Memorial). Leave a message stating your name, phone number, and volunteer driver interest. You will be contacted within 48 hours.

To learn more, go to www.razoo.com/story/Northwest-Suburban-Dinner-At-Your-Door. ~

New City Website Offers Helpful Features

If it's been awhile since you last visited the City of Golden Valley in cyberspace, there are several reasons to return.

CONTACT US

- Have a question while browsing the City's website? We've made it easy for you to **find the correct person or department to help**. Most web pages also have an "Email Us" link for a quick contact form that goes straight to the people at the City most likely able to answer your question.



Bookmark www.goldenvalleymn.gov today.

SUBSCRIBE

- **Sign up to receive news from the City delivered straight to your inbox.** Choose only the news you are interested in receiving—be it City Council meeting updates, Concerts in the Park schedules, crime alerts for your zone—there are more than 50 lists to choose from. A **text message alert** option is available for snow emergencies and crime alerts. Go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe to begin.
- **Prefer to use an RSS reader?** Subscribe to the lists of your choice with your email address (see above). Your personalized RSS feed link will be emailed to you, as will instructions on how to easily disable email updates and just get the news via your RSS feed. Just want general news? Subscribe to the City's news feed by clicking the RSS icon on the home page.
- If you use Outlook, iCal, Google calendar, or another calendar application that supports the ICAL format, you can **subscribe to the City's meeting or events calendars**. Go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/calendar.

WATCH

- In conjunction with Northwest Community TV, the City broadcasts **City Council and Planning Commission meetings to watch online live and on demand**. Go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/video and click on "City Meeting Replays."
- Direct links to various videos from the City or about our community are also available at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/video.

REGISTER

- Visit www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation to **browse youth, adult, and senior recreation activities and register online**. If you've never registered online before, call the Park and Recreation office at 763-512-2345 (Mon–Fri, 8 am–5 pm) for a household barcode number.

SHARE

- Is there an event or news article on the City website you want to share? Every web page has a quick way to **share a link** to that page via email, Facebook, or Twitter.

MORE HELPFUL FEATURES...

- **Crime Maps**—Go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/police/maps to access a map of police incidents over the last 90 days.
- **Parks & Nature Areas**—For detailed information about all of Golden Valley's parks and nature areas, complete with photos, maps, and lists of amenities, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/parks.
- **Jobs**—View City job openings and download an application. Go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/jobs.

The City is dedicated to continuing to improve its online presence for the benefit of residents and businesses. Coming in 2011 is online utility bill payment. 

Run The Valley T-Shirt Design Contest

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

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

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

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

The **deadline for entries is Jan 5, 2011**. Drop them off at Brookview Community Center, 200 Brookview Parkway, Golden Valley, MN 55426. 



2010



2009



2008

Reduce Holiday W·A·S·T·E

In addition to buying local, these holiday tips promote eco-friendly habits.

CHRISTMAS TREES

Fifty million Christmas trees are purchased each year in the US.

Consider a potted Norfolk pine or fig tree as a house plant that can serve as a Christmas tree, or invest in an artificial tree. Purchase trees from a tree farm rather than cutting them down in the wild.

CARDS

Each year, 2.65 billion Christmas cards are sold in the US. One less card per person would save more than 50,000 cubic yards of paper. Save time, money, and resources by updating and paring down your list and sending postcards or electronic cards.

LIGHTS

Smaller bulbs mean lower wattage. Outdoor light strands that are wired parallel have separate circuitry, so if one bulb blows the rest will keep shining.

TOY PACKAGING

One small toy can come packaged in several different types of plastic, cardboard, and twist ties. If you are buying popular toys, remember the cardboard can be taken off, flattened, and recycled, and the twist ties can be reused.

GIFT WRAP

The average consumer wraps 20 to 30 gifts during the holidays. Get creative: wrap gifts in scarves, handkerchiefs, bandanas, old posters or maps, coloring book pages, old sheet music, newspaper, last year's wrapping paper, wallpaper scraps, cloth bags, or fabric scraps. Put jewelry in a wooden box or wrap kitchen gifts in dishcloths.

PACKING

Popcorn is one of the best packing materials to keep gifts from sliding around in a box. If you use packing peanuts, try the biodegradable ones.

Buying Local Is Eco-Friendly

This winter, when thinking about shopping and gift ideas for the holidays, look into buying local. It can benefit your community in many ways.

Buying local is eco-friendly because it requires less transportation to ship the products and it keeps more money within the community, says Jesse Mortenson, member of the Twin Cities Metro Independent Business Alliance (IBA), an organization started in 2005 to call more attention to local businesses.

"If you spend a dollar at a local independent store versus at a chain store, a quarter more of that dollar will be recycled, on average, back into the community," Mortenson says, citing an Andersonville Civil Economics study released in 2004.

According to the study: For every \$100 in consumer spending with chain firms, \$43 will remain in the local economy; if that same spending occurs with a locally owned firm, that value jumps by 70 percent, to \$73.

That's one reason why in 2005 Metro IBA launched its website, www.metroiba.org, which posts a growing list of local, independent businesses.

Minnesota2020, a local non-partisan think tank, has promoted a "buy local" campaign for the last three holiday seasons. It also lists Minnesota-owned and operated businesses at www.mn2020.org/giftguide.

So research your neighborhood shops and stores. Buying local not only keeps more money in the community and reduces packaging and transportation waste, but it also encourages supporting merchants in your community who you may know personally or talk to on a frequent basis.

OTHER GREEN SHOPPING IDEAS

There are other eco-friendly things you can do to become a thoughtful gift-giver.

Waiting until the last minute to do your holiday shopping can lead to rushed, poorly selected gifts that go to waste. Take time to make sure the receiver will actually use and enjoy your gift. If it's being used, it's not being wasted.

And it helps to get something consumable—a box of teas, an arrangement of coffees, a bottle of wine (with a reminder to recycle the bottle). If the gift is consumable, organic, and recyclable, it reduces waste and relieves the recipient of guilt and clutter. Paying for event tickets or memberships has similar benefits.

If you're giving to people who are also environmentally conscious, you can give green, literally. Order a tree or shrub, have a tree planted in their honor, or make donations in their name to an environmental protection group or program.

The holiday season can be a major contributor to waste and missed economical opportunities, but a little time and research can steer you to better choices for you and your community.



SEVENTY PERCENT MORE OF YOUR MONEY STAYS IN THE LOCAL ECONOMY WHEN YOU BUY FROM A LOCALLY-OWNED BUSINESS.

Golden Valley Recycles

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

Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Christmas	Fri, Dec 24
New Year's '11	Fri, Dec 31
Memorial Day '11	Sat, Jun 4
July 4 '11	Sat, July 9
Labor Day '11	Sat, Sept 10
Thanksgiving '11	Sat, Nov 26

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.

City's EAB Plan Weighs Pros, Cons Of Treatment

When it comes to defending against the destructive Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) beetle, municipalities across the metro area are developing management plans that range from full chemical treatment programs to removal and replacement programs, or a combination of the two strategies. Although the City of Golden Valley is pursuing the remove and replace option, staff first carefully weighed the pros and cons of chemical treatment.

After Golden Valley's city foresters attended numerous workshops and spoke with several forestry professionals from the heart of the EAB infestation in Michigan and Ohio, the City decided against using chemical treatment options for several reasons.



ECONOMICS—The chemical approach requires that ash trees be treated indefinitely (approximately every two to three years) and will still likely need to be removed eventually. This means the City would have to treat 3,000 trees with chemicals for years and years with no guarantee it would save the trees. Companies that provide for chemical treatment of trees do not guarantee the products for more than one year or 18 months. And as the costs of the chemical treatments add up, the cost of tree removal increases as trees get older and larger.

This means the City would have to treat 3,000 trees with chemicals for years and years with no guarantee it would save the trees.



ENVIRONMENT—Research indicates some chemicals may be harmful to beneficial insects and, in some cases, birds. Very little long term data has been provided for this concern. The City is also concerned about soil drenching chemicals that may impact surface water quality or water tables. In addition, not all ash trees are candidates for chemical treatment due to poor vigor, location, etc (these are the trees the City will focus on removing the first few years).



SUSTAINABILITY—Removing and replacing a high percentage of one species of tree with a more diversified population of trees will limit liability to the City in the long term.

Options For Private Property Owners

City staff recommends a completely different approach for private property owners. Depending on resources, the condition of the ash trees, and how much people value the ash tree(s) on their property, they may want to consider one of the following strategies:

- Wait (and budget) for trees to get infested, then remove and replace.
- Chemically treat the trees to prolong their life span.
- Remove or replace now before the tree(s) get larger and more expensive to remove.

Golden Valley's EAB management plan does not prohibit residents from treating their private trees or from treating ash trees in the right-of-way (boulevard) adjacent to their property. For tracking purposes, the City would like property owners to complete a right-of-way permit if they choose to chemically treat trees in the boulevard.

Golden Valley will reassess its EAB management strategy annually and keep the community informed about progress and changes. Questions? Contact Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom at 763-593-8046.



Ash tree photo by dailyinvention

CAREFUL SALT USE PROTECTS WATER QUALITY

Metro area waters have become increasingly salty since the early 1950s, and chloride is the culprit.

Chloride from road salt and the products people use to keep walks and driveways clear of ice is carried by snow and ice melt into our lakes, streams, and wetlands. This chloride can harm plants and animals, contaminate our drinking water, and corrode vehicles, roads, and bridges.

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE

The West Metro Water Alliance outlines four steps everyone can take at home or work to help keep our waters cleaner.

- **Before a big storm arrives, apply a liquid de-icer to prevent ice build up.** You can make deicer by mixing two cups of hot water with one cup of salt in a spray bottle. This brine helps keep the ice crystals from bonding to the pavement or your steps and will make shoveling easier and more effective.
- **Shovel, blow, or plow your snow, and/or sweep as soon as possible.** The longer you wait and the more the snow is walked or driven on, the more likely the snow will bond to the pavement and form ice.
- **If you apply salt and there are leftover crystals visible after the ice has melted, you have used too much.** Leftover salt can be swept up and re-used or disposed of in the trash.
- **Temperature matters.** Salt is less effective when temperatures fall below 15° F. When it's really cold outside, use sand, or sand mixed with a little salt, to provide traction until the ice can melt.

The West Metro Water Alliance is a collaborative group working to create educational opportunities to protect and improve water resources. It includes the Shingle Creek, West Mississippi, Bassett Creek, Elm Creek, and Pioneer-Sarah Creek Water Management Organizations; Hennepin County Environmental Services; and the Three Rivers Park District.

RECREATION opportunities

Find details on the following recreation opportunities in the Winter Recreation Activities Brochure or the City website (www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation).

Youth Activities



Supper With Santa (children of all ages, must be accompanied by an adult)—Dec 3, 6–7:30, Brookview. Pizza, holiday show, and a visit from Santa. Must pre-register.

Mailbox To The North Pole—Use Brookview's special Direct-to-the-North-Pole mailbox through Dec 17. Santa requests each letter include a full name and address so he can reply.

Youth Basketball (boys & girls grades 2–6)—January—mid-March. Register by Dec 17. Volunteer coaches needed.

Mites Basketball (boys & girls grades K–1)—Jan 22—March 12. Emphasis on fundamentals (dribbling, passing, shooting). Instructional scrimmages, mini basketballs, and lowered baskets. Teams formed at first meeting.

Davis Community Center

Gyms are closed Nov 25–28, Nov 30, Dec 18–26, Dec 30–Jan 1.

Shoot Some Buckets—(ages 7 & up) — Sat, 10 am–noon, \$1 per child w/adult.

Family Gym Time—Sun, 9:30–11:30 am, \$3 per family

Over 40 Basketball—Mon, 8–10 pm, \$4 per night/person

Adult Open Volleyball—Tues/Thurs, 8–10 pm; Sun, 3–5 pm. \$4 per time/person

Adult Open Basketball—Sat, 8–10 am, \$4 per time/person

Register in person, by mail, phone, fax (763-512-2344), or online (www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation/programs.php).

For more information, contact:

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

Skating Season: Coming Soon To A Rink Near You

Golden Valley has 16 recreational skating rinks, offering a season of fun and outdoor activity for cold weather enthusiasts of all ages.

City crews must deal with many variables when building and maintaining these ice rinks. To start making ice, crews need temperatures to be around 0° to -10°F for a week or so and frozen ground about four inches deep. Then crews can establish a six-inch ice base, which will help rinks survive most warm snaps. The final step is to build a smooth “finish surface” on the ice.

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

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

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

Golden Valley Skating Rinks

Schedule

Rinks open Dec 18 and close Feb 21 (weather permitting).

Monday–Friday: 4–9 pm

Saturday: 10 am–9 pm

Sunday: 1–9 pm

Holidays

Christmas Eve: noon–4 pm

Christmas Day: closed

New Year's Eve: noon–7 pm

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

Martin Luther King Day: 10 am–9 pm

Presidents' Day: 10 am–9 pm

Locations

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

Gearty	3101 Regent Ave N	H	GS	W
Hampshire	1601 Louisiana	H	GS	W
Lakeview	1521 Hillsboro Ave		GS	W
Lions	151 Louisiana Ave	H	GS	W
Medley	2331 Ensign Ave	H	GS	W
Scheid	1856 Toledo	H	GS	W
Wesley	8305 Wesley	H	GS	W
North Tyrol	900 Westwood Dr		S	
South Tyrol	1510 Kaltern Lane		S	
Yosemite	351 Yosemite Ave N		S	

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

Community Projects See New Developments

Whether it's home maintenance help, roadway beautification, festivals, or fireworks, Golden Valley has multiple groups working to benefit the community. Here's an update on a few recent developments.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

In 2008, local churches and non-profit organizations worked with Golden Valley Bridge Builders to create Neighbors Helping Neighbors. The goal is to match community volunteers with homeowners needing physical or financial assistance with home maintenance. PRISM matches the maintenance needs with volunteers and financial resources.

This year, the City of Golden Valley secured federal Community Development Block Grant funds to support emergency maintenance needs identified through Neighbors Helping Neighbors, which will be administered through PRISM. If you need help with housing maintenance, call Karen at Neighbors Helping Neighbors, 763-432-4205, or email kclara@prismmpls.org.



2011 Lilac Planting Project

Bolstered by three successful years of planting, the Bridge Builder's Lilac Planting Project has identified new ways to get the community involved in 2011:

- Adopt-A-Lilac-Planting-Area encourages neighbors to help maintain planted areas by mobilizing a weeding crew about once a month.
- In 2011, Golden Valley neighborhoods will be able to nominate a planting area along Hwy 55



and then mobilize to help plant and provide ongoing maintenance. The City will select the area to be planted based on submitted entries.

To get your neighborhood involved, submit nominations for the new planting by Jan 1 or adopt an existing area by April 1. For more information, contact Volunteer Coordinator Sandy Werts (763-512-2341 or swerts@goldenvalleymn.gov).

NEW! Golden Valley Community Foundation

The new Golden Valley Community Foundation will work to consolidate the multiple fundraising needs of the three groups listed below (each group has representatives working as the transition board, which is developing articles of incorporation and by-laws):

- Golden Valley Community Events Fund, an independent 501c(3) that puts on the annual Valley Days Art & Music festival
- Golden Valley Human Services Foundation, a City Board that sponsors events (Run The Valley, Taste of Golden Valley, Golden Valley Golf Classic) which both entertain residents and earn money to support local non-profits
- Golden Valley Connection Project, a City Board that promotes grass-roots efforts to improve the City, such as the Lilac Planting Project and the annual Ice Cream Social

The goal is to kick off the new GV Community Foundation in conjunction with the City's 125th anniversary, to celebrate Golden Valley's tradition of community engagement. For more information about this project, contact Dean Penk at vochio@yahoo.com.



SENIOR stuff

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

GOLDEN TONES CHORUS

Practices are Thursdays, 10:30–11:30 am, Calvary Lutheran Church Music Room, 7520 Golden Valley Road. Group performs monthly at local care centers.

Holiday High Tea

Tues, Dec 14, 1–2:30 pm, \$6 (includes entertainment and refreshments).

The afternoon begins with tea and a toe-tapping performance by Rhythmic Feet followed by pianist Dan Wascoe. Petite sandwiches and desserts will be served. Bring your own tea cup to add to the fun. Register by Dec 7.

STAR OF BETHLEHEM

Wed, Dec 15, 9:45 am refreshments/10 am speaker, \$3 payable at the door.

The story of the Star of Bethlehem explores the night sky as it appeared at that time and suggests that the Wise Men may actually have seen something extraordinary in their nightly observations. We will tie the Bible, recorded history, and modern astronomy together to try to solve this age-old mystery. Presented by Bill Arden, Associate Professor, Augsburg College. Register by Dec 10.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DONATION

A donation to the Golden Valley Seniors helps offset some costs of the senior program PLUS gets the newsletter mailed to your door. Jan 1–Dec 31, 2011: \$5 for residents/\$8 for non-residents.

"MARY WANDERERS" Trip PROGRAM

- Jan 13: Old Log Theater, \$50 (register by Dec 30)
- Jan 27: High Tea at St Paul Hotel, \$58 (register by Dec 13)
- Feb 12: Tony Sandler Live, \$60 (register by Dec 13)

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

Re-zoning Needed to Implement Comprehensive Plan

After years of information gathering and public input, the City of Golden Valley completed a decennial update of its comprehensive plan in May 2010. Its multiple chapters identify developments and plans in seven areas—land use, housing, parks and open space, transportation, wastewater, water supply, and surface water. Now that the plan is finished, what's next?

State law requires zoning in cities to be consistent with land uses designated in their comprehensive plans. Whenever a comprehensive plan is updated, a city is given one year to implement changes. That means Golden Valley has until May 2011 to re-zone eight areas that are inconsistent with its updated comprehensive plan (see map).

But re-zoning doesn't mean those areas would suddenly change, explains City Planner Joe Hogeboom. It just opens the land to other options over a period of time, options that will better serve the demographics and changes projected for Golden Valley and the surrounding area. That's the type of long-term planning addressed by a comprehensive plan (see story on page 15 for more about Golden Valley's comprehensive plan).

Re-zoning doesn't mean those areas would suddenly change.

In the coming months, the City Council will evaluate long-term land use possibilities in these areas and discuss what actions should be taken. Property

owners in and around the affected areas are encouraged to be active participants in this process and will receive notices of upcoming meetings.

If the City Council doesn't approve the zoning revisions, officials must amend the comprehensive plan to reflect the current zoning designations.

Questions? Contact Joe Hogeboom at 763-593-8099 or jhogeboom@goldenvalleymn.gov.

3. Apartment complex north of Golden Valley Rd and west of Decatur Ave

- Current Zoning: 1 Medium Density Residential R-3 parcel
- Proposed Re-zoning: Light Industrial (requires a 4/5 vote of the City Council to change a residential zoning designation to non-residential)

5. SE Corner of Winnetka Ave and Hwy 55

- Current Zoning: 15 Single Family Residential R-1 parcels and 1 Institutional I-4 parcel
- Proposed Re-zoning: Medium Density Residential R-3

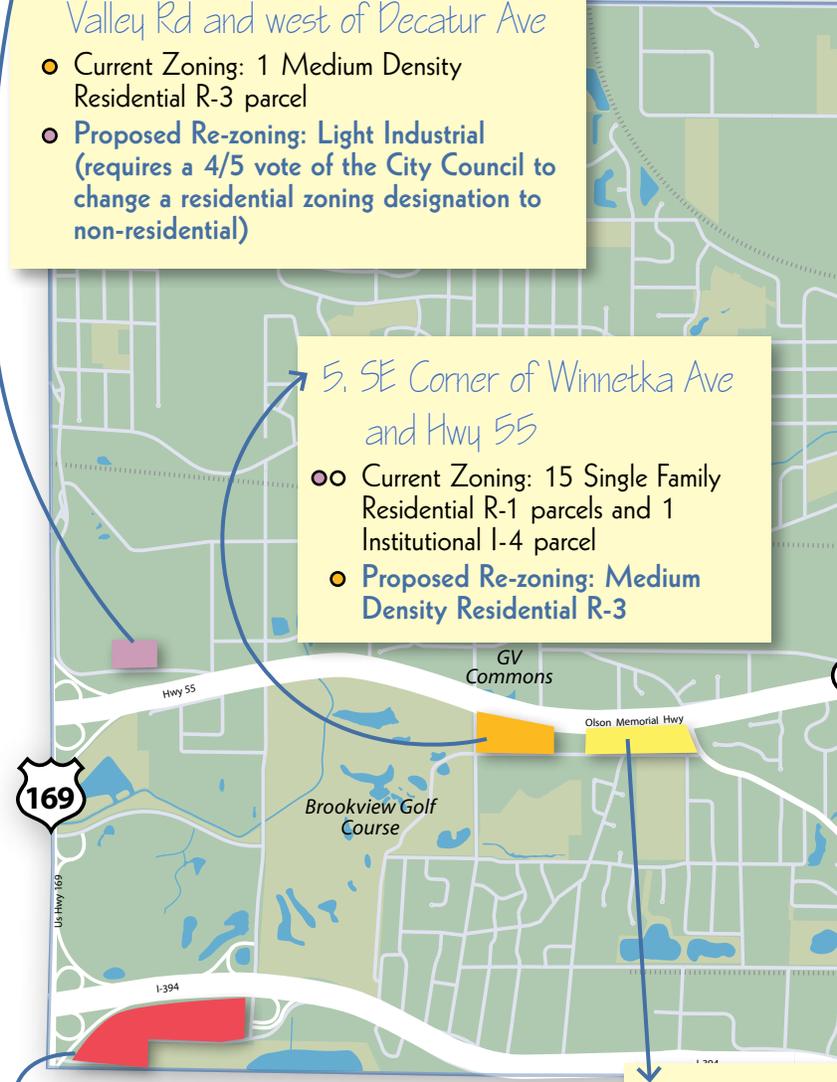


4. SE Corner of I-394 and Hwy 169

- Current Zoning: 3 Industrial parcels
- Proposed Re-zoning: Commercial

6. SW Corner [unclear] and Hwy 55

- Current Zoning: Residential R-3
- Proposed Re-zoning: Medium Density Residential R-3





Zoning Definitions



Single Family Residential R-1—Single-family homes. No apartment buildings or other multi-family dwellings. The majority of residential neighborhoods in Golden Valley are zoned R-1.



Moderate Density Residential R-2—Single-family homes as well as two-family homes, such as twin homes or town homes. No apartment buildings and other large multi-family dwellings.



Medium Density Residential R-3—Multiple family dwellings of up to six units per acre



High Density Residential R-4—Multiple family dwellings of up to five stories or 60 feet in height



Commercial—Retail, commercial businesses, and office



Business and Professional Office—Office uses. No retail or other commercial uses.



Light Industrial—Offices, warehouses, and light manufacturing



Pet Safety Begins With Owners

The City of Golden Valley finds a number of lost pets yearly, and while some are claimed by their owners, the rest are turned over to the Golden Valley Humane Society. The City also handles hundreds of pet-related complaints ranging from noisy animals and animal bites to animals off-leash and feces left in public areas.

The best thing you can do to protect your pet and yourself is to be a responsible owner.

IDENTIFICATION

Collars and tags are the bread and butter of pet identification, and every pet should have one, but they can fall off or get damaged. Microchips provide more permanent pet identification.

These tiny computer chips are enclosed in material compatible with living tissue and are implanted between a pet's shoulder blades using a process similar to getting a shot. The chip can be detected with a scanner that displays the code assigned to the pet when it was registered with the microchip company, allowing the animal to be traced back to the owner if found.

SUPERVISION AND TRAINING

You are responsible for your pet's behavior, and if it results in any sort of accident or injury, you are liable.

Never allow pets to wander the neighborhood or get out of your sight. Keep dogs leashed or in a fenced-in yard when outdoors.

Do not leave a barking dog outdoors. Continuous barking is rude and annoying to neighbors and gives you and your dog a bad rap.

Last but not least, pick up your pet waste and dispose of it properly, both on your own property and in public places. 

City Considers Change To Dog License Ordinance

At the request of the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD), the City Council is considering striking an ordinance that requires residents to license their dogs. Current law requires a \$6 annual license fee for dogs, with a citation for non-compliance.

The ordinance was originally enacted as a public safety tool to track that dog owners had their pets vaccinated annually for rabies, explains Police Chief Stacy Altonen, but over the years, the police have found the benefits of the law don't outweigh its inconveniences.

"We sell around 600 dog licenses each year," says Altonen, "and there are certainly more than 600 dogs in Golden Valley. We had to consider if there truly was a need for this

requirement based on the resources it would take to enforce it."

"Since many pet owners have their dogs fitted with electronic microchips, that has become the next evolution of dog licenses," she adds. "We identify many more dogs through the chips than licenses, and we always verify rabies vaccination before we return a dog we find."

OTHER PET ORDINANCES

Other City pet ordinances will remain intact.

According to GVPD Crime Analyst Joanne Paul, pet owners most frequently cited for ordinance violation are those who allow their dogs to run free in public places. Dogs must be leashed in public parks, and leashes are required in other public areas unless the dog responds to voice commands as effectively as it does a leash.

It is also unlawful for anyone to keep a dog or cat that barks, howls, or meows excessively or continuously. This includes any noise by any dog or cat that can be heard by any person from a location outside of the building where the animal is kept AND occurs repeatedly over at least a five-minute period of time, with less than 30 seconds between each animal noise.

Paul says people shouldn't need a law to know to keep their animals from creating noise disturbances. It's common courtesy.

"These kinds of things are what start neighborhood disputes," she adds.

Dog bites are a more serious matter. Any dog that bites a human and causes injury is required to be reported to the police. If the animal is reported more than once, it is listed at the GVPD as a "dangerous dog," meaning the owners must put up signs around their property warning about the dog, muzzle the dog on walks, and pay a hefty insurance fee.

Lastly, it is illegal in Golden Valley to own more than three dogs or three cats. It is also unlawful to own farm animals. 



THE POLICE HAVE FOUND THE BENEFITS OF THE DOG LICENSE REQUIREMENT DON'T OUTWEIGHT ITS INCONVENIENCES.

Lost & Found Pets

If you need to list your pet as being lost, contact the GVPD at 763-593-8079 or police@goldenvalleymn.gov. Found pets are kept at the City's animal impound facility, and a notice with a photo will be posted on the City's website. If not claimed in seven days, the animals are transferred to the Golden Valley Humane Society.

BY THE NUMBERS

Golden Valley Animal Impound

- 41** At-large dogs picked up so far in 2010
- 2** Unclaimed after seven days and taken to the Humane Society
- 39** Claimed by owners via...
 - 15** Owners calling the GVPD
 - 7** Microchip identification
 - 10** Rabies tag and/or dog license
 - 7** Other tags or unknown means



Plan Now For Safe Travel All Winter

Everyone should be cautious about traveling in extreme winter weather. Simple planning can save you trouble and even save your life. Follow these tips.

Prepare—Be sure your vehicle is in good winter driving condition. Keep your gas tank at least one-half full. Take along emergency equipment and supplies (see below) and keep them accessible.

Be Aware—Listen to forecasts, road reports, and storm warnings. Dress appropriately and pack extra scarves and mittens. Allow extra time for trips in severe weather.

Be Easy To Find—Tell someone where you are going and the route you will take. Report your safe arrival. If you stall or get stuck, tie a colored banner to your antenna or hang it out a window. At night, remove the cover from your dome light and turn the light on. Road crews or rescue units can see a small glow at a considerable distance. To reduce battery drain, use emergency flashers only if you hear approaching vehicles. Keep one person on watch; don't let everyone rest at the same time.

Stay In Your Vehicle—Walking in a storm can be very dangerous. You might lose your way or become exhausted, collapse, and risk your life. Your vehicle is a good shelter.

Call For Help—If you become stranded in Minnesota and you have a cell phone, call 911. In other states, you may be able to dial 911 or 0 to reach an operator. Provide information on your location, the condition of all persons in the vehicle, and the problem you are experiencing. Follow instructions; you may be told to stay where you are and wait for rescuers. Don't hang up until you know who you spoke with and what will happen next. If you must leave your vehicle, write down your name, address, phone number, and destination. Place the piece of paper inside the front windshield for someone to see.



Adopt A Fire Hydrant

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

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

Build Your Own SURVIVAL KIT

Use an empty three-pound coffee can or container with a plastic cover and include:

- 1 bright bandanna or cloth
- 2 small, sharp knife and plastic spoons
- 3 small candles and matches
- 4 safety pins
- 5 whistle
- 6 plastic flashlight and spare batteries (reverse batteries in flashlight to avoid accidental switching and burnout, and warm batteries before using)
- 7 snacks or small packets of food you can eat hot or cold
- 8 large plastic garbage bag



In addition, be sure to have:

- 9 shovel
- 10 basic car emergency kit (booster cables, tow cables or chain, road flares and reflectors, and tools)
- 11 sand, cat litter, or other grit in a plastic milk carton
- 12 boots, warm clothing, and blankets
- 13 cell phone adapter to plug into lighter
- 14 a 30-foot cord to use as homing line when you must exit the vehicle



Winter Services, Ordinances Help Keep City Safe

Keeping City streets clear of snow and in safe driving condition is an essential service, and Golden Valley's Public Works Department is prepared to handle the City's 123 miles of city streets and 43 miles of sidewalk every time it snows.

Best Practices For Safer Winter Driving

Safe winter driving requires awareness and common sense. It also requires efficient, effective snow removal, and public cooperation can help immensely:

- Reduce speed and keep a minimum distance of 50 feet from snow plows and sand trucks (frequent backing is necessary, and rear visibility is very limited).
- Never drive into a snow cloud or pass vehicles while they're plowing.
- Stay away from the end of a driveway when a snowplow is approaching.
- Keep sleds and toys away from the street when they're not being used.
- Never build snow forts or snow sculptures in the snow piles on the boulevard.
- Keep garbage cans and recycle bins in the driveway and off roadways and sidewalks if it snows on collection days.
- Listen to weather forecasts so you're not in transit when a storm hits. The resulting traffic jams make plowing difficult. Plan ahead and choose alternate routes when necessary.
- Remember, speed limits are set for ideal driving conditions. In congested city traffic, careless drivers increase hazards for everyone, especially during inclement weather.
- Don't put snow from private property onto City streets or sidewalks, and remind private contractors to follow suit.
- Slow down for a day or so after a snow or ice event. After all, it is winter in Minnesota and we all have to deal with it. ❧

❧ PLOWING AND DE-ICING

To keep traffic moving, crews first plow main collector arterial streets that connect neighborhoods to state and county roads. Plowing stops if strong winds and drifting cause unsafe conditions; it resumes when conditions improve. The City calls a snow emergency after snow accumulates to two inches or more. However, an accumulation of consecutive snowfall events of less than two inches may constitute initiation of snow plowing (see box).

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

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



Parking on Public Streets

Parking is prohibited on public streets after a snowfall of at least two inches until snow has been plowed to the curb line.

After a snowfall of at least two inches, vehicles in violation are cited by patrolling police. Vehicles found to be obstructing traffic or snow plows, and those still in violation after 24 hours, may be towed. This winter, stay informed of weather forecasts and move your vehicle from the streets whenever snow is in the forecast. **Sign up for Golden Valley snow emergency email alerts at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe/.**

❧ PLOW DAMAGE

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

❧ SNOW REMOVAL FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY

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

If you have questions about the City's winter street maintenance, contact Public Works Street Maintenance Supervisor Chuck Perkins at 763-593-3982 or go to cperkins@goldenvalleymn.gov. ❧

City's PMP Completes Three Miles In 2010

In 2010, Golden Valley rehabilitated approximately three miles of local streets and utilities as part of its ongoing Pavement Management Program (PMP). The project focused on streets in the area just south of Hwy 55, north of Glenwood Ave, and west of the Perpich Center for the Arts High School.

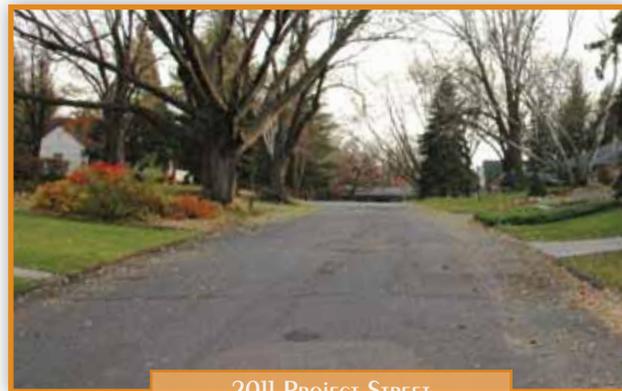


2010 PROJECT
RECONSTRUCTED STREET

Northwest Asphalt, the City's contractor for the project, finished paving and placing sod in all 2010 construction areas this fall. Streets were reconstructed to City standards, including concrete curb and gutter. The project also addressed necessary repairs to the storm sewer, water mains, and sanitary sewer mains.

2011 & 2012 PMP

For 2011, the PMP will move to the Lawn Terrace area of Golden Valley, which is between Hwy 100 and Turner's Crossroad and I-394 and Glenwood Ave.



2011 PROJECT STREET

The 2012 PMP will include Circle Down north of I-394 and east of Turner's Crossroad, King Hill Rd and King Creek Rd south of Glenwood Ave, as well as Welcome Ave, Welcome Circle, and Phoenix St south of Golden Valley Rd and west of Hwy 100.

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

The 2011 and 2012 PMP projects are in the preliminary design phase, which includes surveying, soil borings, and neighborhood participation. A public hearing for both projects was scheduled for Nov 16, as this newsletter went to press. For the latest news, visit the City website at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/.



2011 PMP STREETS
(IN YELLOW)

If the projects are approved, the City would complete the plans for both and go out for bids for the 2011 PMP in January. The City would bid the 2012 PMP in January 2012.

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

Contact Xcel About Streetlight Outages

Functioning streetlights are important to community safety.

The City of Golden Valley appreciates your help locating streetlights that are out or malfunctioning. Since Xcel Energy operates and maintains all streetlights in Golden Valley, the best way to resolve problems is to contact Xcel directly.



There are two ways to report streetlight outages—call Xcel Energy at 1-800-960-6235 or report it online. Either way, you'll need to provide Xcel with the following information:

- exact address of the problem light
- street name, street suffix, street direction, and nearest cross street
- house number nearest the light
- light location (corner, mid-block, cul-de-sac, etc). If the light is located on a corner, please also list which corner (NE, NW, SE, SW, etc).
- pole number (if known)
- description of problem

To report an outage online, residents and businesses can access Xcel Energy's website at www.xcelenergy.com, click on "customer service," then click "outdoor lighting," select "Minnesota" from the list of states, and then click "report streetlight outages." There is also a link to Xcel Energy on the City's website at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/streets/streetlights/.

Residents may continue to report problem lights to the City's Public Works Department (763-593-8030), but reporting problems directly to Xcel Energy will be more direct and result in quicker service. Online reporting also makes it easier for residents to follow up with Xcel Energy on the timing of repairs.

The City appreciates your continued help in finding problem streetlights. If you have questions, contact Public Works at 763-593-8030.

Tips To Manage Driver Distractions

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.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that 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 Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) offers the following tips for managing common driving distractions:

- ! Turn your phone off or switch to silent mode before you get in the car.
- ! Set up a message to tell callers you are driving and you'll get back to them as soon as possible.
- ! If you need to make a call, pull over to a safe area first or ask a passenger to make the call for you.
- ! Don't ever text, surf the web, or read email while driving (against the law in most states, including Minnesota).
- ! Know which states and localities prohibit the use of handheld cell phones. GHSA offers a chart of state laws at www.ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/laws/cellphone_laws.html.
- ! Review maps and directions before you start to drive. If you need to review maps/directions when you are on the road, ask a passenger to help or pull over to a safe location.
- ! To avoid distractions, always secure pets properly before you start to drive.
- ! Pull over to a safe location to address situations with your children in the car.
- ! Don't smoke, eat, drink, read, or do any other activity that takes your mind and eyes off the road.

Gawking Is A Common Traffic Hazard

We all do it. Sometimes it seems impossible to resist. But it's dangerous, annoying, and completely unnecessary.

It's called rubbernecking, that urge to turn your head to see some spectacle on the side of the road. Whether it's an accident, a fire, a stalled vehicle, a patrol car that just pulled someone over, or something utterly uneventful—turns out it doesn't take much to get us to crane our necks and slow down our cars.

The urge to gawk is a strong one, says Golden Valley Police Sgt Dave Born, and it's also a common traffic hazard.

"Any time you take your eyes away from the field of vision in front of you, it's going to be dangerous," Born says. "If you see something more interesting than you thought it would be, your head will be turned longer than anticipated, and it causes a chain reaction slow down."

That leads to traffic back-ups and to more accidents.

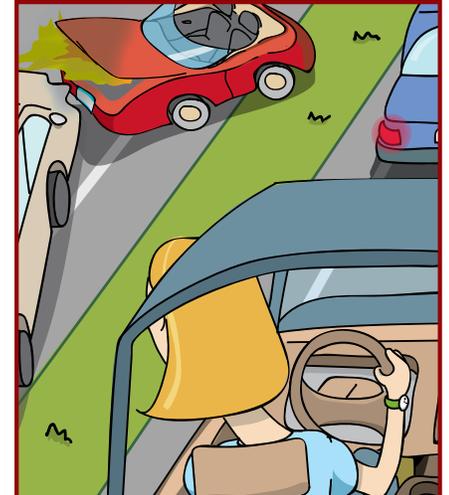
"Rubbernecking causes what we call secondary crashes," Born says. "When you turn your head, your car is moving forward many more feet than you realize."

It is also dangerous for bystanders, Born adds. When you turn your head to look at something, you have a tendency to turn the steering wheel in the same direction, increasing the risk of hitting someone on the side of the road.

If you cause an accident because of rubbernecking, that counts as inattentive driving, and that's a citable offense.

"It happens so much statewide that planners have started to increase the height of concrete highway medians to stop gawking from the other direction," Born says.

Resist the urge to gawk and keep your eyes on the road, advises Born. Drivers around you will be also distracted, so make sure to leave a safe distance between you and the car in front of you and stick to a safe speed. 



As Traffic Trudy gawks at an accident, she fails to notice the brake lights in front of her own car.



What you can't see can hurt you.

put down
your phone

DISTRACTED 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)
- cognitive (takes your mind off driving)

Distracted driving is a citable offense, even if it doesn't lead to an accident.

Golden Valley Plans For The Future

Golden Valley's upcoming 125th anniversary in 2011 (see page 1) will coincide with actions that may influence what happens in future chapters of the community's history. These actions (see pages 8-9) will be guided by a comprehensive plan that has been built over the past several years by citizens, a plan that looks at Golden Valley as it is now and as it needs to be in coming years to serve the needs of future populations.



The Comprehensive Plan

Cities in the seven-county metro area began developing comprehensive plans in 1976, when the Metropolitan Land Planning Act went into law. They are required to update their comprehensive plans every 10 years.

"A city's comprehensive plan is its blueprint for the future," explains Golden Valley City Planner Joe Hogeboom. "It helps elected officials focus the ideas of the community, outlines goals in a clear and organized fashion, and allows the public and nearby cities a clear view of where we hope to go."

Golden Valley's Plan

Work on Golden Valley's 2008-2018 Comprehensive Plan began in 2003 with Envision Golden Valley, which asked hundreds of residents about their hopes and ideas for the future of the community.

The result is a plan that shows an increased concern for the environment and active living, with more emphasis on mixed used development that combines commercial, residential, and parks and open space. The plan also considers ways to improve transportation as well as address Golden Valley's aging population through rezoning to provide for more areas for life-cycle housing.

For example, demographic projections show Golden Valley's population increasing by 3,000 to 24,000 in the next 20 years. Thirty-nine percent of those citizens will be over age 65.

Demographic projections show Golden Valley's population increasing by 3,000 to 24,000 in the next 20 years. Thirty-nine percent of those citizens will be over age 65.

Creating medium density housing would give senior citizens a place to live that may be more appropriate for their needs (such as senior apartments and assisted living complexes). It would also use land more efficiently.

"We need to be looking at the big picture," Hogeboom says. "And the big picture is that we should rezone to meet the changes in our community and communities around us."

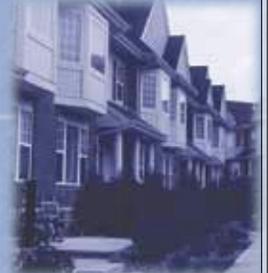
Golden Valley is always looking for ways to maintain and improve its amenities, adds Hogeboom. "A 10-year plan takes stock of where we are and where we need to go. It gets us and surrounding cities on the same page, then guides City officials as they navigate further changes." 

Golden Valley Comprehensive Plan

Highlights

Housing

In 2000, 20 percent of Golden Valley residents were over age 65, and that number is projected to increase. To prepare for changing needs



and desires in the housing market, the City will investigate ways to help seniors continue living in their homes as well as increase the amount of senior housing available in Golden Valley for those who choose to move to an apartment or condo-style home. The plan identifies corridors where higher density housing could be built with minimal impact on single-family residential neighborhoods.

TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation Chapter addresses the impact of the regional transportation system on the community and the need to improve and sustain Golden Valley's strong network of streets, trails, and sidewalks. This includes looking at ways to promote alternate transportation as well as maintaining the City's Pavement Management Program.



WATER SYSTEMS

The Metropolitan Council requires cities to create a water supply plan as part of their comprehensive plans. In particular, cities are encouraged to work cooperatively to share and distribute water resources and develop capital improvement plans. Golden Valley's involvement with the Joint Water Commission (a cooperation among Golden Valley, Crystal, and New Hope) is one example.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

One of Golden Valley's goals is to maintain the quality of open space in the city and promote healthy lifestyles through active living by design, which eases residents' ability to bike or walk. 



To read Golden Valley's 2008-2018 Comprehensive Plan in full, visit www.goldenvalleymn.gov and click on the "Comprehensive Plan" link at the lower left-hand corner.

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GVPD Leads Big Loud Toy Drive

For 15 years community members have helped the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) lead regional law enforcement agencies in a unique approach to the *Toys for Tots* donation effort.



This year is no different. The GVPD will once again collect toys, and on the last collection day, police from as many as 20 departments load their cruisers with donated gifts and meet at the GVPD. Then, lights blazing and sirens blaring, they parade to the KARE 11 *Toys for Tots* drop-off site. In past years the effort garnered thousands of toys.

Between Nov 29 and Dec 17 (at 3 pm), bring new, unwrapped toys to the GVPD at 7800 Golden Valley Road (open 24 hours a day). Don't forget gifts for older kids and teens. For more information, contact Sgt Steve Johnson at 763-512-2505. 



Crime Prevention Fund Supports Community

With all the reports of crime and violence we're often subjected to, it would be easy to be fearful. But thanks in part to the strong sense of community developed through citizen and business involvement in projects like the Crime Prevention Fund, Golden Valley is very safe. The crime rate is low, and your chances of being a victim of crime are small.

The Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund is a private, nonprofit organization run by citizen volunteers and supported by businesses and residents who understand that safety and security are critical factors in thriving communities. It works in partnership with the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) to enhance safety in our community.

The Crime Prevention Fund provides critical financial support for many crime prevention initiatives, including:

- a **Public Safety Awareness Class** to teach fifth graders about safety and about the responsibilities of citizenship
- **Safety Camps** designed to give 4-, 5- and 6-year-olds and youth entering second, third, and fourth grades safety education in a camp setting
- a **Masters Safety Seminar** that gives local seniors and public safety personnel an opportunity to meet on a non-emergency basis to discuss safety issues important to senior citizens
- **rewards** offered for tips given to help solve crime (an August 2008 reward was given for assistance in solving several cases involving damage to property)
- programs like **Minnesota's Night To Unite**, **Neighborhood Watch**, **CyberWatch**, **Community Crime Prevention Updates**, and the **I-394 Virtual Block Club**

Contributions are the Crime Prevention Fund's only source of revenue, and demands on funds have never been greater.

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

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