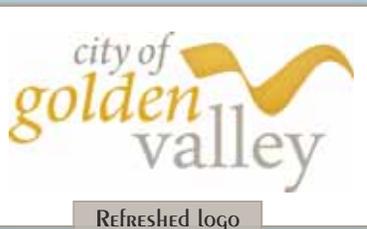


Golden Valley

CityNews

2011: OPPORTUNITY *and* CHANGE



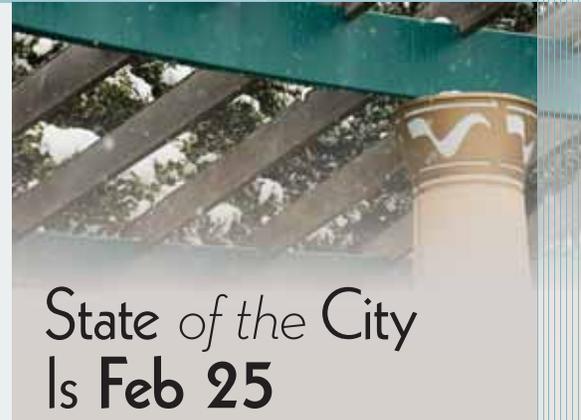
Refreshed logo

It has been mentioned a time or three that 2011 is Golden Valley's 125th year as a municipality. A milestone such as this offers opportunities to look back as well as forge ahead, which each issue of *CityNews* 2011 will do in the ongoing "Revisiting Envision Golden Valley" (see pages 8-9 for the first installment).

Opportunity can also spark change. The launch of the

City's updated website last August introduced easier-to-use web (www.goldenvalleymn.gov) and email addresses, which in turn require updates to City stationery and business cards. Design meetings for these items prompted staff to propose a Golden Valley logo refresh that strengthens the City's established image, delivers on Envision Golden Valley's call for continued innovation, and provides a final product using in-house resources (eg, no outside \$\$ spent).

The historical montage at right shows the evolution of Golden Valley's City logo, which is anchored by a stylized "V" representative of a valley. The refreshed logo balances the "V" with the "City of Golden Valley" text while emphasizing the golden yellow. Adding the neutral gray, which is the color of intellect, knowledge, and wisdom, can be perceived as long-lasting, classic, and dignified—all great words to describe the community. The golden yellow offers an upbeat partner, shines with optimism and enlightenment, and carries the promise of a positive future. 



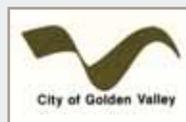
State of the City Is Feb 25

The Golden Valley City Council will present its 2011 State of the City Community Update Tuesday, Feb 22, at 6:30 pm and Friday, Feb 25, at 7:30 am in the City Hall Council Chambers. All members of the community are invited to attend.

Replays can be viewed on GV 16, the City's government access cable channel, and on the City website.

The annual State of the City reports the City's accomplishments of the past year and previews goals for the coming year. This year's report will take a longer look back at progress made since the community was founded 125 years ago and at progress made on Envision Golden Valley goals.

For more information, contact Communications Coordinator Cheryl Weiler at 763-593-8004. 



Older VARIATIONS of City BRANDING: VILLAGE PLAN COVER, 1960s (top); stylized "V," 1970s-1980s (middle); TEXT OVERLAP, 1990s-2000s (bottom)

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COMMUNITY Kicks Off 125th

Happy anniversary to us! Golden Valley will be 125 years old in 2011, and the community is planning several events during the year to celebrate the City's incorporation as a village Dec 16, 1886.

LOGO DESIGN CONTEST WINNERS

To start things off, the 125th anniversary planning committee asked the community for help developing a logo to commemorate the anniversary, and Golden Valley residents Bill Collins and Oriana Freeman submitted the winning entries.

The logo by Collins (above) will brand 125th anniversary events; the logo by Freeman (a student at Robbinsdale Middle School) will grace all community youth events.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Currently planned events include:

- **March 10, 7 pm:** The General Mills archivist will present "The History of General Mills in Golden Valley."
- **May 12, 7 pm:** Golden Valley residents Roxanne and Jim Rock, whose ancestors are Native American, will present "Native Americans in Golden Valley in the 1800s."

Both free events are at the Golden Valley Historical Society, 6731 Golden Valley Rd.

Everyone is invited to share ideas and help with the celebration. For updates, upcoming meetings, and opportunities to participate, check www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/125/, or contact Volunteer Coordinator Sandy Werts at swerts@goldenvalleymn.gov or 763-512-2341.

Property Value Notices Will Mail In March

As the new year begins, the City of Golden Valley begins another round of property assessments to establish valuations for the next year's property tax statements.

Establishing property values requires careful valuation of every house and a scientific knowledge of the overall housing market year by year. The law requires that properties be inspected every five years, inside and out, and the City of Golden Valley contracts with professionals from Hennepin County to appraise the market value of your home.

The County assessors inspect one-fifth of properties in the city each year. They compare sales within the city to determine value for your property, but not all properties are created equal. The inside of the home could be completely different. That's why it's important to let the County assessor into your house for an accurate look. If they can't get in, they need to make assumptions. When the assessor comes to your door, be sure to ask for his or her County identification.

The assessor analyzes actual sales of property in the city, reviewing last year's open market sales to determine the sale price of similar properties. Foreclosures, sales between relatives, or sales not on the open market may not be used in the evaluation. January 2 of each year sets the market value for the upcoming budget cycle. For example, values included for the assessment on January 2, 2011 are based on home sales that occurred between October 2009 and September 2010. These are used to calculate the tax payable in 2012.

Hennepin County mails property valuation notices in March. If you have questions about the assessed value of your home, you can call the assessors (at the number listed on the valuation notice) any time after the value notice goes out. You may also attend the Board of Appeal and Equalization (Open Book style) meeting April 26, 4-6 pm, at City Hall. Appeal in person, by letter, or by designated representative. Tell assessors ahead of time you will be attending the meeting so they can bring the appropriate information.

For more information, contact the Hennepin County Assessor's Office at 612-348-3046, or visit the Hennepin County website at www.co.hennepin.mn.us, click on "Residents," then "Home & Property," then scroll to "Property Assessment."

from Assessment to Taxation

A 3-Part Process, 2-Year Cycle

Year One

Hennepin County assesses property values as of Jan 2 and mails valuation notices in late February or early March.



Truth in Taxation notices are then compiled and mailed in November.

Year Two



In March, the County mails Property Tax Statements based on the prior year's assessments.

Run The Valley, For You And For Your Community



Make good on those New Year's resolutions to get fit (or fitter). Plan now to join friends and neighbors April 9 for one of Golden Valley's most popular events, the annual *Run the Valley*, sponsored by the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation.

This 10K race and 5K run and walk, now in its 17th year, raises funds for organizations that benefit the community (see sidebar). In 2010, the event drew 562 runners and 88 walkers and raised \$15,357.

The certified course runs through residential Golden Valley—water stops and post-race complimentary snacks are provided. The first 650 participants will also receive a long-sleeve T-shirt.

Last year's corporate sponsors were Bassett Creek Dental, Channel 12/NWCT, City of Golden Valley, Liberty Diversified Industries, and Lupient Enterprises. Sponsors were Al's Coffee, Byerly's Golden Valley, Einstein Bagels, Go Health Chiropractic, Golden Valley Federated Women's Club, Great Glacier Water, Old Fashioned Donut Shoppe, Pilgrim Cleaners, Road ID, Valley Pastries, and Yoplait USA.

For more information, visit www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/runthevalley/, or call Park and Recreation at 763-512-2345.



Run The Valley 2011

When: Saturday, April 9, 8:30 am for 5K run, 8:40 am for the 10K run, and 8:45 am for the 5K walk

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

How To Register: Online at www.zapevent.com and www.active.com through April 7. By April 8, in person or by mail with check, cash, or Visa/MasterCard to 200 Brookview Parkway, 55426; by phone (763-512-2345); or by fax (763-512-2344). In person, April 7 from 1–7 pm and April 8 from 8:15 am–3 pm at Brookview Community Center, 200 Brookview Parkway. On race day, from 7:15–8 am at Davis Community Center.

Cost: Entry fee is \$20 before March 1, \$25 March 1–April 7, and \$35 on race day.

GVHSF Benefits Community



Since 1992, the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF) has worked to support organizations that serve Golden Valley residents. Each year, this board of citizen volunteers reviews funding requests and allocates funds raised by the Foundation through various annual fundraisers, such as April's *Run the Valley*, July's *Golden Valley Golf Classic* and November's *Taste of Golden Valley*. Since the GVHSF's inception, \$1,251,020 has been allocated to agencies.

For 2011, the GVHSF allocated \$43,500 to nine local human service organizations: Crisis Connection (\$2,000), Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery (\$7,000), Home Free (\$2,500), Northwest Suburban Dinner at Your Door (\$5,000), PRISM (\$10,000), Senior Community Services HOME Program (\$5,000), Senior Community Services Outreach (\$3,500), The Bridge For Youth (\$3,500), and Tree House (\$5,000).

To qualify for funding, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- 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.

For more information about GVHSF activities and events, or to join the list of contributors and volunteers, please call 763-512-2345.

T-SHIRT DESIGN WINNER

Each year the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation looks for colorful, eye-catching, and original graphic design entries for the annual *Run The Valley* 5K/10K Walk/Run T-shirt design contest. *Run The Valley* participants get a T-shirt to commemorate the event. The design is changed annually and the process is open to the community.

This year's T-shirt design contest winner is Golden Valley resident Lucy Feneis (see design at right). Feneis also had the winning design in 2000.

The winning design is selected by consensus of GVHSF members. The winning designer(s) are awarded 10 T-shirts and acknowledged in Golden Valley *CityNews* and the *Sun-Post* newspaper. GVHSF will have sole ownership of the winning design and the right to reuse it when desired.

If you're already thinking about next year's contest, you can find guidelines on the City website.



RECYCLE YOUR THERMOSTAT, GET \$5



Receive a \$5 gift card for recycling a thermostat at one of two Hennepin County drop-off facilities.

Hennepin County and Covanta Energy Corporation are encouraging residents to save energy by replacing a traditional thermostat with a programmable thermostat. Traditional thermostats contain mercury and must not be placed in the trash.

When you recycle a mercury-containing thermostat at a county drop-off facility, Covanta Energy is offering a \$5 Menards gift card to help reduce the cost of purchasing a programmable thermostat.

The Hennepin County drop-off sites are:

- Hennepin County Recycling Center and Transfer Station
8100 Jefferson Highway, Brooklyn Park
- South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-Off Center
1400 West 96th Street, Bloomington

Questions? Call Hennepin County Environmental Services at 612-348-3777 or go to www.hennepin.us/dropoffs.

Brooklyn Park Site Offers Disposal Options

With Mighty Tidy Clean-Up day in October and the UGH (Unwanted Garden and Household chemicals and waste) drop off in June, residents may be inclined throughout the rest of the year to hold on to unwanted material or dispose of it improperly.

But they have another option, says Al Lundstrom, Golden Valley environmental coordinator. They have the Hennepin County citizen drop-off facility in Brooklyn Park. Getting rid of most unwanted electronics is free at this facility, and other disposal may only set you back a small charge.

According to the drop-off site usage numbers, Golden Valley residents don't take as much advantage of the facility as other surrounding communities. Maple Grove, Plymouth, Brooklyn Park, Champlin, and Minneapolis residents all use the facility in much greater numbers. Lundstrom attributes this to the distance from the site (about a 15- to 20-minute drive from Golden Valley, depending on where you live), but when weighing the cost of inadequate waste disposal or storing toxic materials, a few extra miles of driving shouldn't be a factor, he says.

How It Works

Bring along proof of residency, such as a driver's license, and payment (if applicable—cash or check only).

Drive up to the booth outside of the building.

An attendant will greet you and check you in. Please have a list of the items you have for disposal. Pay for any items that have fees at this time. Facility staff will direct you based on the materials you're dropping off.

MATERIALS AND COSTS



ELECTRONICS—No fee. Limit five of the same type per year. Includes TVs, computers and peripherals (keyboards, printers, scanners), fax machines, audio equipment such as stereo systems and music players, telephones (cordless and cell phones) video equipment (VCRs, DVD players, games), rechargeable tools, and portable electronics.



HOUSEHOLD, LAWN, AND GARDEN—No fee. Includes batteries and products with rechargeable batteries (tools, small vacuums, toothbrushes), pesticides, fluorescent bulbs (no more than 25 per year), aerosols, pool chemicals, mercury thermometers and thermostats, and paint, stain, varnish, and solvents (five-gallon pails: limit three per year).



AUTOMOTIVE—No fee. Must be delivered in labeled containers of 5 gallons or less. Includes oil and oil filters, lead-acid batteries, antifreeze, and gas, fuels, and other fluids. *Restrictions: Gas cans must be left at the facility to be emptied. You will be contacted when they are ready for pick up.*



APPLIANCES—\$15 each (no commercial appliances). Includes microwaves, refrigerators and freezers, water heaters, dishwashers, dehumidifiers, washers and dryers, stoves, air conditioners, and furnaces. Disposal of gas-powered appliances is available only to Hennepin County residents by appointment (call 612-348-4491). \$30 each for air conditioners and full-size refrigerators, \$15 each for half-size refrigerators.

TIRES—\$3 each (must be four feet or less in diameter).

HENNEPIN COUNTY Drop-Off Facility

8100 Jefferson Highway
Brooklyn Park, MN 55445

Open Tuesday through Saturday

Call 612-348-3777 for hours of operation or visit www.hennepin.us/dropoffs for details.

Golden Valley Recycles

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

Holiday Schedule

<u>Holiday Week</u>	<u>Pick-Up Date</u>
Memorial Day	Sat, Jun 4
July 4	Sat, July 9
Labor Day	Sat, Sept 10
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 26
Christmas	Fri, Dec 23
New Year's '12	Fri, Dec 30

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.

Now's The Time To Tend To Storm Damaged Trees

Most of the damaged trees people are noticing this winter are from storms we had this summer, says Al Lundstrom, environmental coordinator. The damage is more noticeable now because of the lack of leaves.

"We may have some additional damage from this year's abundance of snow, but not likely significant because we did not get a significant 'wet' snow event," Lundstrom says.

No matter when the trees were damaged, he adds, winter is the best time to tend to them. When there are no leaves, it's easier to identify dead branches, broken limbs, or branches hanging too low. Winter also poses less risk of disease pathogens infecting the trees. And because the ground is frozen, limb removal is less likely to cause landscape damage, Lundstrom says.

But because tree maintenance is dangerous, especially this time of year, it's important that you do not do the work yourself and instead hire a professional contractor who has the proper tools and methods to safely maintain your trees. Contractors can also give you further options after assessing just how damaged your trees are.

"These guys are certified arborists," Lundstrom says. "They know what they're doing."

Residents should get multiple bids and double check that the contractor has liability insurance. A professional contractor should have these documents easily available.

On the City's side, staff is currently reviewing the public boulevard and park tree inventory to develop a tree maintenance plan for this winter, Lundstrom says. The City does not perform tree maintenance work on private property. ❧



STORM DAMAGED TREE

How To Hire A Tree Contractor

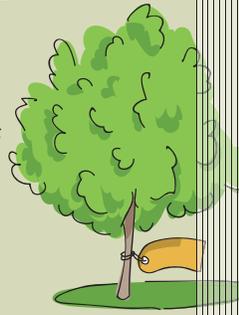
Hiring a tree removal or trimming contractor deserves the same consideration and caution that goes into selecting a doctor or home builder. A mistake can be expensive and long lasting, but the right choice can assure health, beauty, and a longer life for your trees.

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. ❧

ORDER SPRING TREES NOW

For the third consecutive year, Golden Valley residents have been invited to participate in the City of Plymouth's spring tree and shrub sale. The program offers inexpensive, high-quality plants to help residents improve their surroundings and add variety to their landscape.



WHAT'S AVAILABLE

The plants are sold as bare-root, meaning they do not come with soil on the roots. Trees are 4–6 feet tall and lightly branched, conifers are about 3–4 feet tall, and shrubs are about 18–24 inches tall.

Several varieties are available, from oak, maple, larch/tamarack, and white pine to dogwood, hazelnut, and snowberry. MnDOT offers an online tool that can help you decide which kind of plant to get based on site characteristics: <http://plantsselector.dot.state.mn.us/plant>.

Shade trees and evergreens start at \$15; shrubs are \$7. Golden Valley residents pay an additional \$5 non-Plymouth-resident fee per order.

HOW TO ORDER

Orders are accepted through **April 12**. Get order forms online at www.plymouthmn.gov. Click on "Services," then "Forestry," then "Bare Root Tree and Shrub Sale." Or, request a form from Golden Valley City Hall.

Plants will be available for pick-up April 30 at the Plymouth Public Works facility (14900 23rd Ave N) from 8 am to 1 pm. Although Golden Valley residents will pick up their ordered trees from Plymouth, they should contact Golden Valley staff with questions.

OTHER QUESTIONS

For more information, check the Golden Valley website at www.goldenvalleymn.gov or contact Tim Teynor, assistant City forester, at 763-593-3976 or tteynor@goldenvalleymn.gov. ❧

Recreation Opportunities

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

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Preschool Playtime (ages 1–5 with an adult)—Fri, 9:30–11 am, through Mar 25, Brookview. \$3/time/child or \$25/Res, \$28/Non-Res 10-time punch pass.

Art Expo (ages 6–12)—Tues, Feb 1 & 8: "Math Based Art," \$36; Tues, Mar 8 & 15: "Percy Jackson," \$36. Both 6:30–8 pm, Brookview.

Kids' Club (ages 3–5)—Mon and Wed, Feb 16–Mar 30, 9:30–11 am, Brookview, \$43.

Science Explorers (ages 4–6)—"Light Science," Mon, Feb 28 & Mar 7, 6–7:15 pm, Crystal Community Center. \$21/Res, \$28/Non-Res.

Indoor Nerf Soccer (ages 5–7)—Thu, Apr 7–May 12, 6 or 7 pm (depending on game schedule), Davis Community Center, \$33.

Adult PROGRAMS

Yoga & Pilates—Tue, Feb 15–March 22, 5:30–6:40 pm, Brookview Community Center, \$60/Res, \$65/Non-Res.

Power Yoga & Pilates—Tue, Feb 15–March 22, 6:45–8:15 pm, Brookview, \$72/Res, \$77/Non-Res.

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–4:30 pm



Reserve Your 2011 Party Spots Now

The start of a new year is an excellent time to line up venues for upcoming parties or group events, and Brookview Community Center or Brookview Park offer pleasant, cost-effective facilities.

Brookview Community Center

Set in the tranquility of Brookview Golf Course, Brookview Community Center, 200 Brookview Parkway, offers space year-round for gatherings of up to 200 guests. Facilities include a large banquet room with neutral decor, a caterer's kitchen, and a patio, deck, and gazebo that provide expansive golf course views. During colder months, the Brookview Grill offers the same views and a warm, comfortable atmosphere for up to 60 people.

For parties and social events with more than 75 people, fees range from \$560–\$645 for up to 12 hours of use. Fee includes set-up/takedown and clean-up. For events with fewer than 75 people, fees range from \$25–\$35 per hour for up to five hours of use plus a \$25–\$35 set-up/takedown fee and a \$60 clean-up fee.

All parties must pay a refundable policy compliance/damage deposit.

For meetings, fees range from \$25–\$65 per hour (plus a \$25–\$65 set-up/takedown fee). Golden Valley civic and non-profit organizations ("Golden Valley" must be incorporated in the name) may use the Community Center free of charge during normal business hours (Monday–Friday, 8 am–4:30 pm) or for \$25 per hour, plus a \$25 set-up/takedown fee, outside of normal business hours.

Park Picnic Shelters

The picnic shelters at Brookview Park (southwest corner of Hwy 55 and Winnetka) are

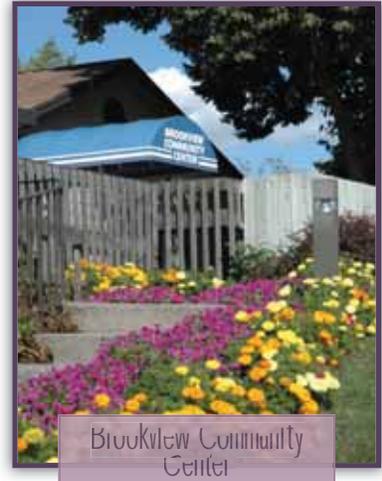
available mid-April through the first week of October, from either 11 am to 4 pm or 5 pm to dusk. Both shelters are easy walking distance to the playgrounds and sand volleyball courts. Brookview Park's total capacity is 300.

The large shelter toward the center of the park has 15 picnic tables for 100 people, two parking lots, six charcoal grills, rest rooms, a fireplace, running water, and 16 electrical outlets. Parties renting the large shelter may also reserve the small softball field to the southwest. Fee: \$100 resident, \$120 non-resident.

The small shelter at the north end of the park has a parking lot, 10 picnic tables for 50 people, four charcoal grills, and six electrical outlets. Fee: \$85 resident, \$100 non-resident.

A permit is required to consume beer or wine. The \$20 fee is payable at the time of reservation. A play equipment kit may be rented for \$15, plus a \$30 refundable deposit, for 72 hours.

Golden Valley residents, businesses, churches, or organizations may reserve picnic shelters, and beginning Feb 10, anyone outside of Golden Valley may make reservations. Residents may not reserve shelters for outside groups or individuals. 



Reserve Now

To reserve facilities at Brookview Community Center or Brookview Park, call the Park and Recreation office (763-512-2345) Monday through Friday, 8 am–4:30 pm. **A \$100 refundable deposit is payable at time of reservation.** For more information, visit www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation.

Need Spring Cleaning Help? Do The Blitz!

If you or someone you know could use a little extra help with spring cleaning chores this year, sign up for the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Spring Cleaning Blitz. On Saturday, April 30, volunteers from several local church and community organizations will go to homes around Golden Valley to help residents with chores like yard raking and exterior window cleaning.

Besides helping residents with home projects, the Spring Cleaning Blitz is intended to increase awareness, and hopefully participation, in **Neighbors Helping Neighbors**, a Golden Valley Bridge Builders program that has been around for a few years but may not be on your radar.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors supports homeowners who are having trouble keeping up with home maintenance. It's a collaboration between PRISM, Calvary Lutheran Church, Valley Community Presbyterian Church, and the City of Golden Valley, with additional help from H.O.M.E. North/West.

To date, there haven't been many takers, so Neighbors Helping Neighbors asked long-time Golden Valley residents Don and Mary Anderson to help promote the project (Don is highly involved with the Historical Society, and Mary is a former mayor).

Don and Mary find their large family home a challenge to keep up, and they feel lucky to have two sons who help out. This year they will "do the Blitz," and they invite YOU to join in. Doing the Blitz will celebrate community and create connections while helping spruce up your home.

"I see a need," Don says. "People are sometimes reluctant to admit they need help. They want to be able to maintain their own ability as much as possible, but there are certain things, like climbing ladders and hauling heavy branches, that are not safe for some people to do."

Anyone can call to participate. Volunteers are eager to help, says Elizabeth Johnson, PRISM executive director.

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

Neighbors Helping Neighbors views the Blitz as a gift to the whole community to build awareness for its services. For more information about Neighbors Helping Neighbors, go to www.prismmpls.com/programs/neighbors.html.



DON AND MARY ANDERSON CHANNEL
AMERICAN Gothic IN SUPPORT OF
THE SPRING CLEANING BLITZ.



Spring Cleaning
Blitz
Saturday, April 30
To sign up for services, call
Neighbors Helping Neighbors
763-529-1350

Senior Stuff

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

DEFENSIVE DRIVING

- 4-Hour Refresher Course—Feb 10 & Mar 10, 9 am–1 pm, \$17

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

LIVING WISE AND WELL

- Feb 13: "Laughter Is the Best Medicine" • Mar 3: "Staying Safe"
- Both at 1 pm, Calvary Cooperative, 7600 Golden Valley Rd.

MONEY MATTERS

- Feb 17: "Take Control of Your Retirement Income" • Mar 17: "Ways to Help Yourself Stay Sane in a Crazy Market"
- Both 10–11 am. Donation for refreshments

COFFEE TALK

- Feb 23: "You Want Me to What??" A short overview of email, texting, Facebook, and Skype, with time for questions and answers. By Adam Knauer, City of Golden Valley. Register by February 21.

- Mar 23: "Attitudes At Every Altitude." Gregg Proteaux found himself facing unexpected challenges when he became a flight attendant, and he recently compiled his observations into a book. Be ready to laugh, because real life is funnier than fiction. Register by March 21.

Both at 9:45 am, \$2 payable at door.

IT'S TAX TIME!

AARP offers free tax help to seniors and disabled residents with simple returns. Thursdays, Mar 3, 17, 31 and Apr 7, 14. Counselors available 9 am–noon; registration at 8:15 am. First-come, first-served. Bring all information needed to fill out your form and a blank check for Direct Deposit of your refund (used only to verify routing and account information).

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



Revisiting Envision Golden Valley

As Golden Valley heads into its 125th year, CityNews reports on progress made toward the goals of Envision Golden Valley, the community visioning process that began in 1997 and continues today. Over the years, thousands of people have participated, sharing their ideas and hopes for Golden Valley's future in six overlapping categories: Development, Transportation, Environment, Recreation, Community Engagement, and Government. Throughout 2011, CityNews will revisit one category in each issue, starting with Development.

Development

Residents expressed a desire keep up with modern trends and meet demands for change while preserving Golden Valley's small town heritage and honoring its past (see "Themes & Ideas" box).

Commercial development should take advantage of existing infrastructure along I-394 and Hwy 55 and should convey the community's identity, reinforce engagement, and encourage small independent businesses. Near by, higher density housing should provide all ages and incomes with alternatives to traditional neighborhoods.

Development should be architecturally and environmentally appealing, include community gathering spots, and provide easy street, sidewalk, and trail access.

As City officials move forward with planning for future redevelopment, they never stray far from residents' goals, says City Planner Joe Hogeboom.

Supporting Themes & Ideas

- ◆ Commercial development includes a distinctive "small town downtown" where business, entertainment, housing, and government services gracefully coexist.
- ◆ Development preserves the natural beauty, history, and character of the city.
- ◆ Development expands housing options and increases density while protecting traditional neighborhoods.
- ◆ Development connects people and places with a defined city center and unique neighborhood developments.

Upcoming projects indeed reflect Envision's themes and ideas, including:

- ◆ an evaluation of the newly created I-394 mixed-use zoning district
- ◆ planning for improved road conditions and land use options along Douglas Dr
- ◆ planning for senior housing options
- ◆ planning for future trails and public transit amenities



Photo by Janice Laulainen (2002 Views of the Valley)

I-394 Area

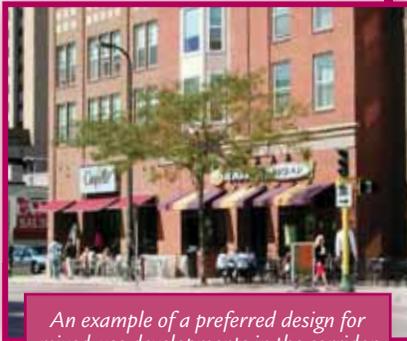
As the southern gateway to Golden Valley, with its central location and proximity to Minneapolis, the I-394 corridor abounds with opportunities for development. The only thing keeping them from happening is the current economic slowdown, says Mark Grimes, director of planning and development.

Currently, Menards is planning to replace its store with a new, two-level building, and developers have proposed a new luxury hotel and apartment complex and two banks in the area.

The whole idea for the I-394 mixed-use zoning district is to replace over time the current combination of industrial, commercial, office, and institutional uses with mixed-use developments and leave room for flexibility, says Hogeboom.

The plan adheres to a small-town feel, with a mix of office buildings, retail, and residential housing next to parks, trails, ponds, and open spaces. Public open space already makes up about 21 acres of the I-394 corridor, and new development would enhance and connect these areas with plazas and active spaces. From an ecological standpoint, the City plans to not only limit the environmental impact of redevelopment, but also to improve its structure to better suit the land, making it more environmentally friendly in the long run.

These same principles and practices will be applied to development across the board, whether it's rezoning residential areas, going forward with Douglas Dr redevelopments, or planning for high-density housing.



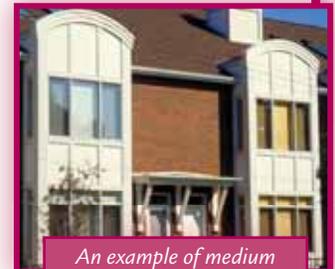
An example of a preferred design for mixed-use developments in the corridor

Senior Housing

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.

To prepare for changing needs and desires in the housing market, the City is investigating ways to help seniors continue living in their homes (see story on page 7) as well as ways to increase the amount of senior housing available in Golden Valley for those who choose to move to an apartment or condo-style home. The City's Comprehensive Plan identifies areas where higher density housing could be built with minimal impact on single-family residential neighborhoods.

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.



An example of medium density housing

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

Trails And Transit

Connecting Golden Valley's neighborhoods and business areas requires planning for future city and regional trails and other amenities, as well as working with local and regional authorities to improve public transit options. Besides maintaining and expanding its own sidewalk and trail system, the City is working with the Three Rivers Park District to improve regional trails and participating in the county-wide planning process for the proposed Bottineau light rail transit line in the northeastern part of the city.

"As we step forward to keep Golden Valley up to date with population fluctuations and shifting demands," Hogeboom says, "we'll do so with an eye toward the goals of Envision Golden Valley."



Regional trails continue to be improved.

Douglas Dr Area

Long term, the City hopes to guide development along Douglas Dr (from Hwy 55 to Medicine Lake Road) that will suit the various needs of the corridor's residents, businesses, and travelers. This includes mixed-use development, which incorporates residential and commercial properties into an area with easy access to transit options, as well as other residential and commercial development (see page 13 for project goals).

The City initiated a study of the area in July 2008 to look at ways to improve traffic flow, pedestrian safety, and aesthetics and to identify funding options for reconstruction of corridor infrastructure.



A vision for mixed-use development along Douglas Dr



CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY

Tuesdays, Apr 19-May 24, 2011

Go behind the scenes at the Golden Valley Police Department.

This six-week course will cover topics like:

- 911 Dispatch Center
- Police Investigations
- Crime Analysis
- Hennepin County Crime Lab
- Hennepin County Canine Unit
- NW Metro Drug Task Force
- SWAT Team
- Use of Force
- Patrol Operations



Classes begin April 19 and will be held on Tuesdays from 6-9 pm at the Golden Valley Public Safety Building, 7800 Golden Valley Rd.

Register today!

Space is limited to 20. Tuition is free! Pick up an application at the Golden Valley Police Department (7800 Golden Valley Rd) or download one online at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/police/gvpdu.

For more information, call the Golden Valley Police Department at 763-593-8079. 🐾



Join Neighborhood Watch



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

The GVPD hosts annual Neighborhood Watch meetings by zone (see schedule at right). In 2011, all meetings will be held in the Golden Valley Public Safety Training Room, 7800 Golden Valley Rd.

To locate your zone or learn more about Neighborhood Watch, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/police/watch/. Upcoming zone meetings will feature current crime trends, big cases of 2010, updates on 911 dispatch and City ordinances, and a time to meet new neighbors.

If you're interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch in your area, contact Crime Analyst Joanne Paul at 763-593-8058 or jpaul@goldenvalleymn.gov. 🐾

2011 MEETING SCHEDULE

Zones	Meeting Date
9 & 10	Monday, February 7
8	Thursday, February 17
6	Tuesday, March 8
5a	Monday, April 18
5b & 7	Monday, May 16
1	October
2 & 4	October
3	November

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

All meetings will be held at 7 pm in the Golden Valley Public Safety Building Training Room, 7800 Golden Valley Rd.



Masters Safety Seminar

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

Tuesday, April 12, 2011
6 - 9 pm

Golden Valley Public Safety Building
7800 Golden Valley Rd

Learn about...

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

Includes dinner, complimentary gift pack, and other giveaways.

RSVP today!

Space is limited. RSVP by calling the GVPD at 763-593-8079, or with an e-mail to police@goldenvalleymn.gov. Include your name, address, and phone number, and write "Masters Safety Seminar Registration" in the subject line.



Off-Duty GV Firefighter Helps Save A Life

In December, Golden Valley firefighter Andy Hutson helped resuscitate a cardiac arrest victim on the side of Hwy 169 near the Cedar Lake Rd intersection. He credits his firefighting experience and training for giving him the skills to handle the emergency.

"As a firefighter, I've been on 12 to 15 calls involving cardiac arrest victims," says Hutson, who is a paid on-call firefighter with the Cities of Golden Valley and Shakopee. "My training and experience gave me confidence in what to do."

That confidence might have helped save a life. Hutson was on his way to work at General Mills when he saw, about 10 cars ahead of him, an SUV veering off the road and into a snowbank. Inside was Steve J. Smith, who was found to have no pulse.

A Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) employee arrived just before Hutson. The MnDOT truck contained a defibrillator.

Hutson told the MnDOT employee to block the lane with her truck so he could pull Smith out of his vehicle. He then laid Smith on the pavement and removed his jacket and shirt. Hutson and the MnDOT employee shocked Smith with the defibrillator and traded off giving CPR.

"We still couldn't find a pulse at this point, but he gave a very labored gasp, so I could tell there was something there," Hutson says. A few minutes later a state patrol trooper arrived and gave Hutson an oral airway device to help hold Smith's tongue down and allow more air in.

St Louis Park firefighters and an ambulance arrived about eight minutes after the crash. By then, Smith had a pulse. He was later reported in good condition.

"I credit Golden Valley's firefighter training program and MnDOT for having the right equipment on their trucks," Hutson says. "I think that made a huge difference."

"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."

Questions about becoming a volunteer firefighter? Contact Baker at 763-593-3977. 

"My training and experience gave me confidence in what to do."

Clear Hydrants = SAFETY

Golden Valley Firefighter John Crelly has seen firsthand how a shoveled-out fire hydrant can make all the difference.



COVERED HYDRANT

In December Crelly, also an assistant fire chief in Fridley, helped extinguish a car wash fire there that threatened to burn down an entire gas station.

"When we arrived, the car wash had fire coming out of both ends," he recalls. "The truck had 500 gallons of water that gets used up in 30 to 40 seconds. In that time we have to transition to a permanent water source."

Luckily, the hydrant was shoveled out.

"If we had spent five minutes digging out the hydrant, I guarantee the entire building would have burned to the ground," Crelly says.

A dug out, visible fire hydrant could also save your home. If your neighborhood hydrant isn't clear, shovel it out.

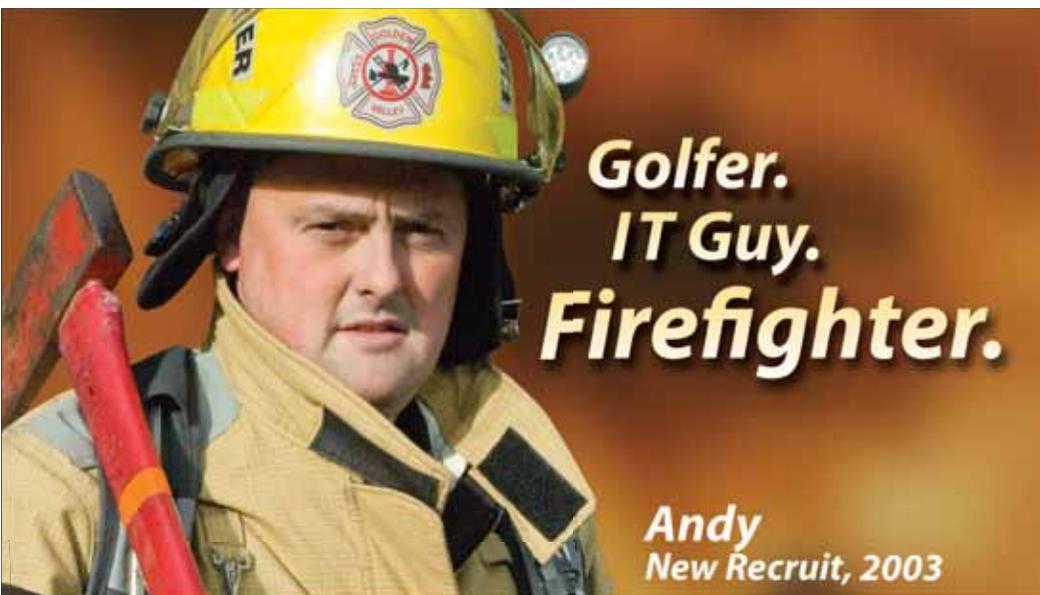
Bert Tracy, public works maintenance manager, says City workers try to clear out as many of Golden Valley's 1,223 hydrants as they can, but it's impossible to get to them all.

For the safety of your neighborhood, please grab a shovel and do your part. 

ANDY HUTSON REMEMBERS CHASING fire trucks as a child. He'd hear them coming, follow on his bike, then watch the firefighters work. His desire to be a firefighter started then and stayed for decades. One day at work he attended a firefighter recruitment presentation and decided to join.

The experience has been as rewarding as he imagined. Hutson recalls a rollover on I-394, car on fire, occupants inside. With seconds to spare, he and other firefighters did a successful rescue. It was a moment he might have watched as a child, the kind that inspired him in the first place.

"If firefighting is something you're interested in, it's definitely worth pursuing," says Hutson. "For me, it's become a passion."



**Golfer.
IT Guy.
Firefighter.**

Andy
New Recruit, 2003

goldenvalleyfire.com

Snow Management Continues After Storms

As Minnesota experiences its snowiest winter since 1997, municipalities like Golden Valley work hard to keep streets clear and find places to put all the snow.

For example, the Dec 11 storm that dumped 18 inches of snow across the Twin Cities meant two days of nearly around-the-clock work for Golden Valley's Public Works Department. But that was only the beginning. Once the snowfall subsided, City crews immediately began chiseling away at a long list of snow management jobs.

"It's the same with every big snowfall," says Street Maintenance Supervisor Chuck Perkins. "We chase those storms for a couple of weeks."

DURING THE STORM

As a snowstorm builds, Golden Valley crews start plowing when snow accumulates and work until the City streets are clear. During the Dec 11 storm, crews worked for 15 hours straight just to keep up with the snow, plowing the center of each street so traffic could get through. Other crews worked 12 hours straight clearing sidewalks and trails, using three machines to make them passable.

AFTER-STORM CLEAN-UP

When a big storm is over, the entire crew returns in the wee morning hours, before traffic gets busy, to plow streets curb to curb and do de-icing and clean-up. They often return at midnight the next day to do more de-icing and start hauling snow from critical areas, while other crews continue clearing sidewalks.

"We can usually clear up to three miles of sidewalk per hour with our equipment, but after a big storm like Dec 11, we clear less than one mile per hour," Perkins says. "When the snow has nowhere to go, banks get high and sidewalks can't get cleared until the snow is removed."

The City hauls snow from areas where there is no room for storage and where accumulated piles of snow create hazardous conditions. Using a large snow blower on the front of an end loader, crews remove snow from the sides of bridges (like the Winnetka Ave bridge over I-394) and similar areas and haul it to the City's snow storage site. These snow clearing and clean-up operations continue, by priority (see box), until the situation is under control on all City streets.

"Our successful snow management operation is due to Golden Valley's commitment to quality and a high level of service," says Public Works Maintenance Manager Bert Tracy. "We're fortunate that we have enough equipment and manpower to handle the snow expediently."

"We also appreciate the cooperation from our residents," adds Tracy. "Very few cars were tagged by the police during the Dec 11 storm because of failure to move them off the streets in accordance with the City ordinance." ❧



Heed These Snow Issues

Citizens have their own snow management responsibilities during snowstorms.

PRIVATE SNOW REMOVAL

According to Minnesota statute and City ordinance, snow cannot be moved from any private property to the street, public right-of-way, or to another private property. When snow is being removed from your driveway or parking lot (whether you do it or hire someone to do it), make sure it stays off of roadways, sidewalks, and adjacent property.

PARKING

Parking is prohibited on any public street after a snowfall of at least two inches until the snow has been plowed to the curb line. Vehicles in violation are cited by patrolling police. Vehicles found to be obstructing traffic or snowplows, and those still in violation after 24 hours, may be towed.

Stay informed of weather forecasts and move your vehicle from the streets whenever snow is in the forecast. The City of Golden Valley also emails or texts snow emergency alerts—sign up at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe/. The Snow Emergency option is at the bottom of the list, under the subhead "Streets and Utilities."

IF YOUR DRIVEWAY GETS PLOWED IN

In regards to both time and money, it's not possible for City workers to go back and clear out driveways blocked by snow left by City plows. City officials ensure no one is being singled out. Having to shovel the end of your driveway because of plows, or hiring someone to do it, is a necessary trade-off for having drivable roads clear of snow. ❧

STREET PRIORITIES

During and after a storm, the City clears streets based on how they are classified regarding function, traffic volume, and importance to the welfare of the community. Minor arterial and collector streets are plowed first. These are high volume routes that connect major sections of the city and provide access for emergency, fire, police, and medical services. Second priority streets provide access to schools and commercial businesses, and third priority streets are low-volume residential streets. Fourth priority areas include alleys and City campus parking lots.

Electric Franchise Fee To Help Fund Project

In October 2010, the City of Golden Valley approved an ordinance requiring Xcel Energy to pay an electric franchise fee to raise revenue the City will use to pay for its portion of infrastructure and related costs for the Douglas Drive Reconstruction Project (see box). Xcel's overhead utilities represent a significant portion of the Douglas Drive Project costs.

According to Minnesota Statute Sect 216B.36, Cities may impose franchise fees on private utility companies for use of the public right-of-way (ROW). Energy providers pass the fees on to their customers within the city.

Beginning in January 2011, Xcel Energy customers will pay the franchise fee as part of their regular utility bills. The proposed rate schedule calls for monthly flat fees of \$2 for residential customers, \$2 for small commercial/industrial non-demand, \$22.50 for small commercial/industrial demand, and \$206 for large commercial/industrial. Franchise fees will be collected by Xcel and submitted to the City quarterly.

The franchise fee will provide the City with approximately \$600,000 in annual revenue. 

Douglas Drive Reconstruction Project

The Douglas Drive Reconstruction project includes:

- improving Douglas Dr for pedestrian safety and traffic
- reconstruction of traffic signal system
- adding sidewalks and trails along Douglas Dr
- placing overhead power utilities underground
- reconstructing the pavement surface, including curb and gutter
- drainage improvements
- rehabilitating City utilities as needed
- adding street and pedestrian lighting
- landscaping

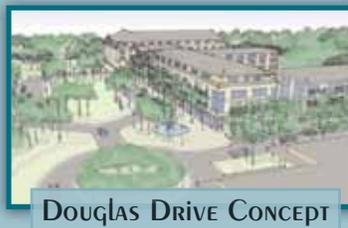
Douglas Drive Corridor Overview

The year-long Douglas Drive Corridor Study, which involved input from residents, business owners, and city officials, resulted in a 50-page document that will guide future development on and around Douglas Dr. Goals for the future of the corridor include:

- improving connectivity and functionality for all modes of transportation
- enabling the corridor to remain a diverse mix of land uses, including residential, commercial, and industrial
- maximizing integration rather than separation of land uses where appropriate
- maintaining the corridor as an employment center
- improving the visual coherence and attractiveness of the corridor
- fostering neighborhood-serving retail and services
- encouraging and facilitating sustainable development and working to establish a balance between urban and natural systems

Currently, City staff is working to study long-term development options for the area near the intersection of Douglas Dr and Hwy 55. This includes examining ways to retain existing businesses while looking for development possibilities for vacant lands. Staff expects to present the study to the City Council this spring.

For more information, contact City Planner Joe Hogeboom at 763-593-8099 or jhogeboom@goldenvalleymn.gov. 



DOUGLAS DRIVE CONCEPT

City Utility RATES INCREASE

Some City utility rates will increase in April to cover increased costs to provide services, like recycling, and to maintain and repair the municipal water and sewer system.

Recycling

Residential recycling rates will increase from \$8 to \$10 per quarter for weekly service. This fee also covers the annual Spring Brush Pick-Up and Fall Leaf Drop-Off.

Water Rates

Commercial water rates will increase from \$4.18 to \$4.34 per 1,000 gallons per month. Most commercial accounts have a separate meter for irrigation. All irrigation rates will increase from \$4.21 to \$4.37 per 1,000 gallons per month (April–November). Residential rates will increase from \$4.18 to \$4.34 per 1,000 gallons per quarter up to 79,000 gallons used. The rate is \$4.37 per quarter for every 1,000 gallons used over 80,000 gallons. For all water accounts, there is a minimum charge based on meter size for the first 1,000 gallons.

Sanitary Sewer Rates

Quarterly utility bill rates are based on water consumption used in January, February, and March 2011. Residential rates are: \$52 for those that use 5,000 gallons of water or less, \$56.10 for 6,000 to 15,000 gallons, \$62 for 16,000 to 19,000, \$67.40 for 20,000 to 25,000, \$80 for 26,000 to 39,000, \$86 for 40,000 to 59,000, \$92 for 60,000 to 79,000, and \$100 for 80,000 or more. Commercial rates will increase from \$3.37 to \$3.47 per 1,000 gallons used. For commercial accounts, there is a minimum charge based on meter size for the first 1,000 gallons.

Streetlights

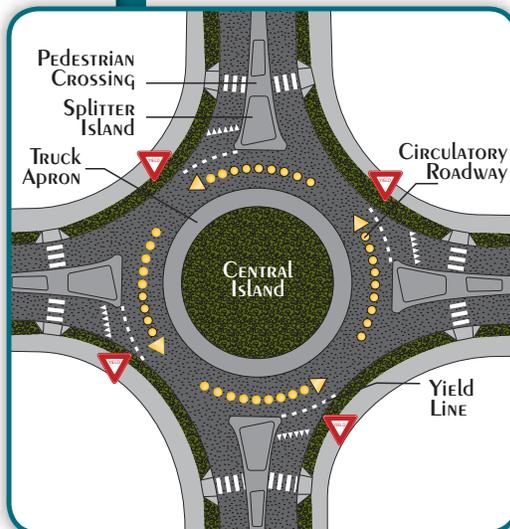
Residential streetlight rates will increase from \$8.80 to \$9.54 per quarter for ornamental lights and from \$5.55 to \$6 per quarter for overhead lights. Commercial streetlight rates increased from \$2.94 to \$3.18 per month for ornamental lights and from \$1.85 to \$2 per month for overhead lights. Some commercial lighting districts may be billed differently.

If you have questions about utility rates or increases, contact Finance Director Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010. 

Quiz

Round-ABOUTS

1. A modern roundabout and a traffic signal can serve similar traffic demands.
 True False
2. Roundabouts are intended to be driven through at high speeds.
 True False
3. Roundabouts experience lower crash rates than intersections with signals or stop signs.
 True False
4. You are more likely to be injured at a roundabout than at a traffic signal.
 True False
5. The vehicle entering a roundabout has the right-of-way over traffic within the roundabout.
 True False
6. Roundabouts can be designed for intersections with more than four directions of entry or for roadways that cross at skewed angles.
 True False
7. Pedestrians crossing at roundabouts require looking for traffic in only one direction at a time.
 True False
8. Vehicles entering and exiting a roundabout must yield to pedestrians.
 True False
9. At a roundabout, bicycles can ride in the circle as a vehicle or on the trail/sidewalk and use the crosswalks.
 True False
10. If an emergency vehicle is approaching with emergency lights on, you should pull over and stop within the roundabout.
 True False



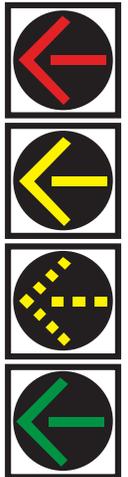
New Traffic Control Devices Improve Safety

Technology and innovative design are behind some of the newer traffic control devices being implemented in the Twin Cities and surrounding areas. Three of the more visible include flashing yellow arrow left-turn displays, accessible pedestrian signals, and roundabouts.

Flashing Yellow Arrow Left-Turn Display

The flashing yellow arrow (FYA) traffic signal “is the biggest change in traffic signal design and operation in the past 40 years,” says Jerry Kotzenmacher, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) senior engineering specialist. “We have shop tested these signals for many months and are confident they will improve safety and reduce congestion.”

The flashing yellow arrow allows drivers to turn left when there is a gap in the oncoming traffic without having to wait for a green arrow. Drivers must yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians. Flashing yellow arrow signals are being used to reduce waiting time for left-turning vehicles, especially during non-peak traffic hours. Metro locations equipped with them include Minnetonka Blvd and Hwy 100 (St Louis Park), Hwy 110 and Hwy 149 (Mendota Heights), Yankee Doodle Rd and Blue Cross Rd (Eagan), and Rockford Rd and Nevada Ave (New Hope).



Accessible Pedestrian Signals

To better serve pedestrians with hearing and visual impairments, accessible pedestrian signals, or APS systems, provide instructions that include verbal messages, audible tones, tactile features, and vibrating surfaces. Audible signals can be heard 6 to 12 feet from the signal push button and can include a repeating tone indicating location of the push button, a click sound or spoken “wait” or “walk” message, a spoken countdown of the remaining walk time, and spoken references to the street name. Tactile APS signals using raised arrows that point to the walking direction and vibrate during the “walk” signal are used along with Braille symbols to provide the street name.

Agencies such as Hennepin County and the City of Golden Valley are retrofitting existing traffic signal systems with APS systems as improvements are made. MnDOT is installing APS components at all new signal projects.

Roundabouts

Roundabouts are circular intersections specially designed to manage speed and improve safety. Statistically, they are safer for drivers and pedestrians due to the lower travel speeds and result in far fewer personal injuries than all-way stop or traffic signal controlled intersections. Vehicles entering the roundabout must yield to the circulating vehicles in the roundabout. Roundabouts are able to handle higher traffic levels with less delay than most stop signs or traffic signals.

Currently there are no roundabouts in Golden Valley, but they are becoming more common throughout the metro area and greater Minnesota. A few locations include W 70th Street in Edina, 66th and Portland Ave in Richfield, and Minnehaha Parkway in Minneapolis.

Answers on bottom of page 15.

For more information about flashing yellow arrow signals, APS systems, or roundabouts, visit www.dot.state.mn.us.

Get Permits Early, Get Efficient, Save Money

The economy may be sluggish and your own budget might have dwindled, but sometimes you can't hold off on costly home remodeling projects. Before you get started, however, keep in mind some basic ways to ensure you spend as little as you have to.

PLAN AHEAD

Plan ahead and get your permits early. This saves you money on two fronts. First, you won't face any pricey citations for going forward without a permit. Second, it will guarantee your projects are properly inspected, so you won't find out too late that your project is not up to code. The biggest waste of money is tearing down a project and starting all over again because of a few oversights.



Getting a permit may take several weeks, causing delays in your project if you don't get to it early. This costs you not only money, but time. For more information on getting permits, call the Golden Valley Inspections Department at 763-593-8090.

DOUBLE CHECK AND GET MULTIPLE BIDS

Inspector Jerry Frevel also suggests that before you buy materials for your remodeling, you ask City inspectors if the materials meet the building code. Just because it's being sold at a hardware store doesn't mean it's compliant, he says.



Just because it's being sold at a hardware store doesn't mean it's compliant.

If you're hiring a contractor, Frevel adds, make sure to get multiple bids. The prices contractors charge vary so widely that getting quotes from three or four will help you find the most cost-effective option. It's important to keep in mind, however, that you need to hire a contractor who is currently licensed. To check the status of a contractor, call the Department of Labor and Industry at 1-800-342-5354.

PRIORITIZE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

When deciding which projects to prioritize, it's important to consider which remodeling projects will save you money in the long run. Don't forget to evaluate your home energy consumption, where even small changes can give you big gains.



CenterPoint Energy recommends customers schedule a home energy audit and learn how to lower their energy use. The wholesale cost of natural gas remains significantly higher than last year.

An energy audit will reveal areas in your home where you can reduce energy consumption by remodeling, such as replacing inefficient heaters, old windows, faulty doors, and improper insulation. Keeping these areas up to date saves you money in both the winter and the summer. CenterPoint Energy also recommends that you take measures now by installing weather stripping, caulking around windows and doors, and sealing attic spaces to save energy.

To schedule an audit, call 612-372-4727 or 800-245-2377. ♪

How Many Permits Do You Need?

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

How Long Is My Permit Valid?

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

To determine the status of various permits, City inspectors annually review permits issued.

GETTING A FINAL INSPECTION

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

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



7800 Golden Valley Road
Golden Valley, MN 55427



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.

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Check Out These **SEMINARS** at the Remodeling Fair ▼

- ▶ Restore Your Old Windows
- ▶ How To Tile A Kitchen Backsplash
- ▶ Refinishing Wood Floors
- ▶ Rain Gardens And Barrels
- ▶ New Trends In Interior Design
- ▶ Siding Basics
- ▶ Kitchen And Bath Remodeling 2011: Small Innovations To Total Renovations
- ▶ De-stressing Your Home, Organizing Your Life One Room At A Time
- ▶ Kitchen Design Workshop
- ▶ Decks And Three- And Four-Season Porches
- ▶ Transform Garages Into Man Caves
- ▶ A Home Owner's Guide To Remodeling Green
- ▶ Spring Into Landscaping

In addition, the Idea Center will feature demonstrations on plumbing basics, lowering energy costs, ecologically friendly gardening, and more.

Free Home Remodeling Fair Returns Feb 27

Whether you're a first-time do-it-yourselfer or seasoned pro, the West Metro Home Remodeling Fair has something for anyone looking to spruce up their home.

The Fair, a multi-city effort to boost housing conditions throughout the western suburbs, will feature more than 100 exhibitors, many free seminars and demonstrations (see sidebar), and an "Ask the Pro" booth.

If you go...

WHAT: The *West Metro Home Remodeling Fair*

WHEN: Sunday, Feb 27, from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm

WHERE: Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Hwy 7, Hopkins (one mile west of Hwys 7 and 169). Parking is available at Eisenhower, and free shuttle service is available from the parking lot at Oak Ridge Country Club (two blocks north of Hwy 7 on 5th Ave/Oak Ridge Rd). Watch for signs.

COST: Free

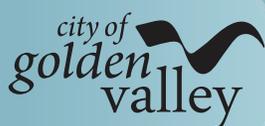
www.homeremodelingfair.com



Exhibitors include architects, landscapers, designers, electricians, roofers, lenders, city inspectors, and more. Architects and interior designers at the "Ask the Pro" booth will offer no-obligation advice (bring your photos, sketches, and questions). Food concessions will be available in the cafeteria.

Sponsors are the Cities of Golden Valley, St Louis Park, Hopkins, and Minnetonka, and St Louis Park, Hopkins, and Minnetonka Community Education. Co-sponsors are ABC Seamless Siding and Windows; Building Arts Sustainable Architecture & Construction LLC; DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen; Flare Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc; Neighborhood Building & Remodeling; Otagawa-Anschel Design Build; Sicora, Inc; Stonehearth Remodeling; The Original Driveway Design; Timberline Construction and Remodeling; Vujovich Design Build; and White Crane Construction LLC.

For more info, go to www.homeremodelingfair.com or contact Golden Valley's property maintenance inspector at 763-593-8074.



7800 Golden Valley Rd
763-593-8000
TTY: 763-593-3968
www.goldenvalleymn.gov

Mayor/Council Message Line: 763-593-8001

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