

# Golden Valley

## CityNEWS



### Volunteers Leave Positive Impact

Volunteers in Golden Valley make a noticeable difference. From Neighbors Helping Neighbors to annual lilac planting (see sidebar), the positive impacts ripple throughout the community.

This summer, for example, members of the Golden Valley Evening Garden Club helped beautify the city by using their knowledge of gardening and plant varieties to fill in the Winnetka Ave median circles between 10th Ave and Golden Valley Rd. They planted 180 perennials of roughly 100 varieties, including achillea ballerina and rush medusa blue. Each of the five circles is 10 feet in diameter and now rife with plant varieties designed to withstand Minnesota winters.

"The City kicked in some money for the plants and we covered the rest," says Barb Ego, a Garden Club member. The 12 volunteers did it to help commemorate Golden Valley's 125th anniversary.

Earlier this spring, the Neighbors Helping Neighbors program, started by local churches and non-profits to help Golden Valley homeowners with exterior home improvements, scheduled a yard clean-up day on Saturday, April 30. Even though the day was rainy, approximately 60 volunteers showed up at Calvary Church to help homeowners assemble brush for the City's brush pick-up. The rain date was also rainy, but the work has been carried forward by volunteers and church members who have "adopted" homes on an informal basis so work could be done when it isn't raining.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors and the Garden Club are just two recent examples of volunteers making a difference in their community. For information about other upcoming opportunities, like the Lilac Planting Party or Valley Volunteer Day, call Golden Valley Volunteer Coordinator Sandy Werts at 763-512-2341. ~

### Lilac Planting Party Is Oct 1



Golden Valley's Envision Connection Project Bridge Builders invite you to the fourth annual Lilac Planting Party.



#### Saturday, Oct 1

8:30-9 am: Registration

9 am-1 pm: Planting

1-2 pm: Celebration Lunch



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

Consider gathering a group from your neighborhood, church, business, or club to form a team for lilac planting Oct 1. Check out the landscaping planted in the first three years, from Hwy 169 east to Glenwood Ave, and resolve to be part of this year's event. Then see the fruits of your labor beautifying the community for years to come.

If you register with Sandy Werts at 763-512-2314 or swerts@goldenvalleymn.gov by Sept 23, your team and sponsoring organization will be acknowledged at the event and in subsequent publications. ~

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photo by Stan Waldhauser

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## 125th Events

### Diamond Luncheon Honoring 75-Year Residents of Golden Valley

Wednesday, Sept 7  
@ Golden Valley Golf & Country Club

The Golden Valley Historical Society will honor residents who have lived in the community for 75-plus years with a lunch and special program. For more information, contact Don Anderson at 763-588-8578 or maryanddon3030@aol.com.

### Essay Contest for 5th and 6th Grade Students

Entries due Oct 19



Golden Valley's 125th Anniversary Planning Team is sponsoring a historical essay contest for students in the 5th and 6th grade. Winners will have their essays posted on the Golden Valley City website and will receive \$50 for first prize and \$25 for second prize. Get contest rules online ([www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/125/schedule](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/125/schedule)) or at Brookview Community Center.

### Golden Valley Library 40th Anniversary

Saturday, Oct 15, 10 am–4 pm  
@ Golden Valley Library

Celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Golden Valley Library building and the City's 125th anniversary with an open house and refreshments. A program at 1 pm will feature tidbits of library and local history. Former and current Golden Valley Library employees will be honored. Following the program "Legal Landmarks in Golden Valley," three Golden Valley attorneys will discuss 10 famous cases that took place in Golden Valley, ranging from A (Alimony) to Z (Zoning) and a whole lot in between. Presented by Marshall H. Tanick, Lynn Gitelis, and Cathy Gorlin.

For a complete list of events, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/125](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/125).

# Council Reviews Proposed 2012 City Budget

In yet another challenging budget year, the Golden Valley City Council held its first discussion July 12 on the proposed 2012 City budget, which shows overall expenditures decreasing by \$39,420 from the 2011 adopted budget.

Some challenges for the 2012 proposed budget include:

- no State budget approved
- a 2.17 percent overall decrease in residential and commercial property values
- no increase in the operating levy that funds general fund operations; it will stay the same as it was in 2011
- contributions to Fiscal Disparities, a mandatory program that compares increases in property values to commercial and industrial values to the 1971 base year and shares growth since that year with other jurisdictions. For 2012, the estimated net contribution of tax capacity is \$4,275,187.
- no new positions and no increase in wages and salaries in 2012
- historically low interest earnings (bad news for current general fund revenue, but good news for future bond issues or refinancings)
- only a slight increase in permit revenue (\$25,000)
- no reimbursement for Market Value Homestead Credit (MVHC), a reimbursement program offered by the State and funded by the City property tax levy. Originally reimbursed by the State, this program is now used to help fund the State deficit. Golden Valley lost \$185,000 in 2008, \$344,471 in 2009, and \$369,240 in 2010 and 2011. The 2012-2013 Budget does not include a reimbursement for MVHC.
- impact of future debt levies to repay bonds issued to finance the Pavement Management Program (PMP). In 2012, the bonded debt levy for streets is \$3,359,377
- an estimated increase of \$30,000 for the special levy for the Golden Valley Fire Relief Association pension. The City is required by State statute to fund any shortfall.
- increased energy and fuel prices
- additional election costs to administer the 2012 presidential election and a State constitutional amendment

## Steps to Approval 2012 City Budget

**SEPTEMBER 2011**  
Council approves proposed levy

**NOVEMBER 2011**  
Truth in Taxation notices sent to property owners and public hearing held

**DECEMBER 2011**  
Final levy and budget approved

Other cost-saving strategies include delayed rehiring upon retirements and delayed capital and equipment purchases. The City also participates in money-saving partnerships, consortiums, and group purchasing. For example, Golden Valley contracts with the City of Edina for dispatch service and buys fuel through a State consortium.

Minnesota law requires cities to adopt a budget annually. Golden Valley prepares a two-year budget to help with upcoming financial needs and forecasts. The proposed biennial budget includes General Fund expenditures and revenues and the 2012–2013 CIP for Parks, Buildings, and Equipment. Other funds that do not require a levy will be available in September.

For the 2012 budget, in September the Council will approve a proposed levy that will be used for the Truth in Taxation (TNT) notices that are sent out in November. The final levy and budget will be approved in December for 2012 property tax statements.

The schedule for the 2012–2013 proposed General Fund Budget is available online at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/budget](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/budget). Information is also available at City Hall. Questions? Contact City Finance Director Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010 or [svirnig@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:svirnig@goldenvalleymn.gov).

# GVHSF Taking Funding Applications

The Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF), which is comprised of community volunteers, helps fund several nonprofit agencies that serve Golden Valley residents in need (see below). For 2011, the Foundation contributed \$43,500.

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

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

Funding applications are due Aug 26, 2011, at 4:30 pm. Pick up applications at City Hall or Brookview Community Center or download from the City's website ([www.goldenvalleymn.gov/boards/gvhsf/](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/boards/gvhsf/)). If you want more information or would like to make a tax deductible contribution, call 763-512-2340. 



**Application Deadline:**  
Aug 26, 2011, 4:30 pm

## GVHSF Helps Fund Community Programs

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

- 1 *The Bridge for Youth* provides 24-hour assistance to youth and families in need, directly accessible without waiting lists, fees, or red tape.
- 2 *Community Mediation Services* provides respectful, confidential, and accessible mediation services.
- 3 *Crisis Connection* provides mental health telephone counseling to people with personal and family problems and crises.
- 4 *Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery* provides shelter care for children up to age six for families dealing with stress or crisis that need time away from children to stabilize themselves.
- 5 *Home Free* provides battered women and their children with safety, support, and shelter, a 24-hour crisis line, and community advocacy.
- 6 *Northwest Suburban Dinner At Your Door* provides nourishing meals to homebound people unable to afford a home-cooked meal.
- 7 *PRISM* provides families in need with food, financial assistance, transportation, and other services in times of financial hardship.
- 8 *Senior Community Services HOME Program* offers services to help elders remain independent in their homes.
- 9 *Senior Community Services Outreach* provides in-home counseling and case management to help frail elders remain independent.
- 10 *TreeHouse* provides guidance to teens and families during difficult times.

## Senior Stuff

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

### Pedal Pushers Bicycle Group

Meeting dates are Aug 9, 30, Sept 13, 27. Call for information.

### Oils And Acrylics With Judy

Work with Judith Baron to paint pictures in acrylics or oil. Mondays through Nov 28, 9:30–11:30 am. No class Sept 5. \$39/residents, \$44/non-residents for a 6-punch card. All supplies brought by student.

### Tai Chi For Health & Arthritis

Classes Sept 6–Oct 18, 8:45 am (Basic/Beginners) and 9:45 am (Moving On, for those who have taken at least one session). \$42/resident, \$47/non-resident.

### FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Aug 24 & Sept 28, 11–11:30 am.

### Coffee Talk

- Aug 24: "Freighter Odyssey." Hear about Dale's four-and-a-half month trip around the world on a working freighter. Register by Aug 22.
- Sept 28: "Gasoline Stations—An Icon of the American Landscape," presented by Paula Pentel, whose thesis on gasoline stations fulfilled requirements for a Masters of Arts degree from the U of M. Register by Sept 26.

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

### Living Wise And Well

- Aug 4: "Easy Indoor Container Gardening." Bring an empty 4- to 6-inch pot and the Golden Valley Evening Garden Club will provide the rest.
- Sept 1: "Laughter IS the Best Medicine," presented by Deanna Soukup, RN.

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

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

# Mighty Tidy Day Is Oct 8

**Saturday, Oct 8, 2011**  
**8 am–1 pm**  
 at Brookview Park  
 (south of Hwy 55 at Winnetka Ave)

Now's the time to make your plans for Golden Valley's annual Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day. It's just the place to unload unwanted items like old mattresses and sofas, broken bicycles, ancient appliances, old tires, outdated computers, televisions, and other items piling up around your home.

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

You must be a Golden Valley resident to participate (proof of residency is required at the entrance). Fees apply. Watch for the September/October *CityNews* or go to the City website ([www.goldenvalleymn.gov](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov)) for more information. ♪

## Golden Valley Recycles

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

### Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Labor Day	Sat, Sept 10
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 26
Christmas	Fri, Dec 23
New Year's '12	Fri, Dec 30
Memorial Day '12	Sat, Jun 2
July 4 '12	Sat, July 7

### 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.

# Textile Recycling Simply Means "Donate Clothes"

When you hear "textile recycling," a phrase often used by environmental experts, don't be intimidated. It simply means clothing donation.

The word textile is mostly synonymous with fabric or yarn. It means any material made by interlacing fibers. Hennepin County lists several possibilities where you can take your old clothes:

- **Arc's Value Village**—a thrift store and donation center located at 2751 Winnetka Ave N, New Hope.
- **Clothes Mentor**—adult used-clothing store located at 14200 Wayzata Blvd, Minnetonka.
- **Courage Center**—a non-profit rehabilitation and resource center. Call 952-881-1100 or register online at [couragepickup.org](http://couragepickup.org) to arrange for a pick-up.
- **Unique Thrift**—a thrift store located at 4471 Winnetka Ave, New Hope.
- **UsAgain**—a green for-profit enterprise that collects used clothes and resells them worldwide. Unattended donation boxes can be found at 2712 Douglas Dr N, Crystal or 1005 N Hwy 169, Plymouth.

Donated clothes are meant to be re-worn, so they should be clean, dry, and dropped off in tied plastic bags. A sturdy plastic bag protects the clothes from dirt and simplifies handling.

Theresa Munoz, manager at Arc's Value Village in New Hope, says a variety of clothes are in demand. "Men's, women's, children's clothes, all of the above."

If clothes are too tattered for reuse, they can be turned into cleaning rags at home or sorted out and recycled at manned drop-off locations.

"We have a trained team to sort through the clothes," says Munoz. "If it doesn't meet standards, we have a way of recycling it."

For more information, visit Hennepin County's website at <http://hennepin.us/> and type "choose to reuse" in the search engine. ♪



DONATED CLOTHES CAN HAVE A NEW LIFE WITH SOMEONE ELSE. ARC'S VALUE VILLAGE IS JUST ONE OF MANY LOCAL DONATION CENTERS.



TEAMS AT ARC SORT RE-USABLE DONATED CLOTHING FROM THAT WHICH WILL BE RECYCLED.

# Reason For Golden Valley DMV Closure Now Public

After nearly three months, the City of Golden Valley was finally able to tell residents and customers June 22 why its Motor Vehicle Licensing Department had been closed since April 1.

On June 22, a former City of Golden Valley Motor Vehicle Licensing employee, Courtney Allyn Olson, was charged by the Hennepin County Attorney's Office with three felonies, including theft by swindle, theft of public funds, and failure to pay over state funds. Charges also include two gross misdemeanor counts of misconduct of a public officer or employee.

Olson was arrested by the Golden Valley Police March 28 and released March 31, pending the outcome of a criminal investigation. Olson's employment with the City of Golden Valley was terminated March 31. Due to the on-going criminal investigation and the need to comply with Minnesota Data Privacy laws, the City was unable to disclose why its Motor Vehicle Licensing Department was closed until charges were filed.

In response to the discovery of Olson's alleged theft and procedural violations, the City took immediate action to close the Motor Vehicle Licensing Department April 1 and hired an independent auditor to review all policies, procedures, and internal controls. The auditor has offered preliminary recommendations to change procedures in a way that will further prevent mishandling and theft of funds in the future. These recommendations have already been implemented. Once the City is authorized to reopen the Motor Vehicle Licensing Department, auditors will be able to complete the audit and finalize their recommendations.

As a deputy registrar for the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Driver and Vehicle Services Division (DVS), Golden Valley's Motor Vehicle Licensing Department operates under contract to the DVS. The City continues to work with DVS to receive authorization to reopen the office as soon as possible. DVS has communicated that it will conduct its own audit of the Golden Valley office. That audit may be delayed due to the State's July 1 shutdown.

Golden Valley's Motor Vehicle Licensing Department has been in operation since 1986. Processing nearly 75,000 licenses, title transfers, tab renewals, etc in recent years, the office has provided a valuable service to Golden Valley and surrounding communities. The City hopes to be able to provide that service again in the very near future. The goal is to reopen the office as soon as possible, following full compliance with recommendations from both the State and independent reviews. 

## Funds & Volunteers Available for Eligible Home Improvement Projects

Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) wants to help Golden Valley homeowners make improvements to their homes (see page 1). Volunteers have already helped reduce costs by providing labor. In addition, area churches have often been able to provide materials needed to make improvements.

Now the City of Golden Valley has secured a federal grant to make funds available to help. NHN has generally focused on exterior improvements, but interior improvements are possible if needed to improve health and safety.

If you have been contemplating these types of improvements, as well as other exterior home improvements, please call NHN now at 763-529-1350. Funds are available to help finance the project for income-eligible families, and committed volunteers are standing by to help you get it done. Grant funds might also be available to fund contracted services beyond the skills of the volunteers. 



## Recreation Opportunities

Find details on the following recreation opportunities in the Fall Recreation Activities Brochure or the City website ([www.goldenvalleymn.gov](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov)).

### Adult Activities

**Yoga & Pilates**—Tues, Aug 16—Aug 30, 5:30–6:40 pm, \$30

**Tae Kwon Do**—Tues, Sept 13—Oct 18, 6:15–7 pm, \$59

### Youth Activities

**Tap & Ballet** (ages 4–18)—Saturday mornings beginning Sept 17, \$38

**Kids Club**—Starts Sept 12, Mon/Wed or Tue/Thur, 9:30–11 am, \$44

**Little Tigers Self Defense**—Tues, Sept 13—Oct 18, 5:45–6:15 pm, \$49

**Preschool Playtime**—Starts Sept 16, Fridays, 10–11:30 am, \$3 per child

**Drama Club** (ages 8–14)—Tues and Thurs, Sept 20—Nov 17, 6:15–7:30 pm, \$65

**Monster Mash Teen Dance** (grades 5–7)—Fri, Oct 28, 7–9:30 pm, \$5 before Oct 27, \$8 at the door



### Park Events

- **Picnic & Music In The Park**—Aug 2, 11:15 am, Brookview

Register in person, by mail, phone, fax (763-512-2344), or online ([www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation)).

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**



# 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, continuing with Recreation.

## Recreation

**OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE: Golden Valley nurtures places, events, and associations that maintain recreation as a focal point of family and community life.**

The City of Golden Valley is always looking for opportunities to improve recreation for its citizens, whether by developing new programming, upgrading facilities, or collaborating with other organizations. This includes trails and sidewalks that provide easy access to local and regional amenities, events and social groups that attract and serve people with a variety of interests, and multi-use facilities that offer a range of programming for the entire community.

"Program-wise, we've been very successful meeting the goals of Envision Golden Valley," says Rick Jacobson, director of parks and recreation. "But with facilities and building construction, it's been harder, simply due to budget restraints. This doesn't hold us back from making improvements and keeping in touch with our residents. We continue to offer a wide array of both cultural activities and athletics. We foster and encourage community bonding through these events and activities."

### Supporting Themes & Ideas

- ◆ Our parks, athletic fields, and natural areas accommodate multiple uses in pleasing outdoor settings.
- ◆ We have unique places and creative opportunities for all citizens to gather and celebrate life.
- ◆ Our recreational programs reach out to the entire community.
- ◆ A community recreation hub supports social, cultural, physical, and entertainment activities for all ages, indoors and out.

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

- ◆ a collaborative project with the local Little League association to improve the baseball fields near Honeywell
- ◆ finding ways to improve facilities within budget constraints
- ◆ partnering with neighboring cities and jurisdictions to improve shared facilities and consolidate costs on programming for residents
- ◆ following trends in recreation to continue to offer programs to fit the changing needs of the community

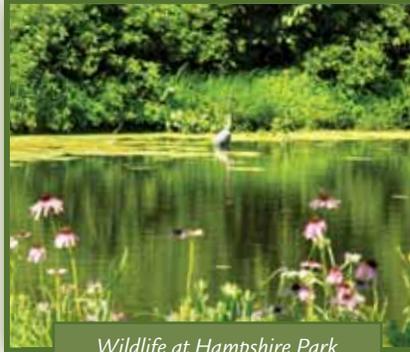
## Parks & Trails

Golden Valley's pioneer families didn't have a lot of time for recreation, but as lifestyles changed, it became evident that people wanted public gathering places where they could meet and enjoy their free time. It wasn't until 1948 that the City organized its first park board, with a budget of \$500. By 1954, Golden Valley's park system had six parks. Four years later the City initiated its first summer recreation program, developed a master park plan, and was building 14 more parks.

Today, Golden Valley maintains 29 parks and nature areas, more than 50 miles of trails and sidewalks, a municipal golf course, a community center, and an active recreation program serving citizens of all ages.

Recently the City, in cooperation with the Three Rivers Park District, completed the long awaited Luce Line Trail, connecting the Minnesota DNR-owned Luce Line Regional trail in central Minnesota and the western metro area to the Grand Rounds trail system at Theodore Wirth Park in Minneapolis, just north of Highway 55.

Golden Valley's trails proudly join a larger network of Minnesota trails reminiscent of its network of highways connecting communities not just within the city but across the state.



Wildlife at Hampshire Park

## Recreation Programming

Golden Valley's recreation programs serve youth, adults, and seniors and include lectures, field trips, crafts, classes, athletic leagues, camps, special events, and more.

For example, there's the Bike Rodeo, Water Days, Penny Carnival, Picnic in the Park, the Puppet Wagon, and Concerts in the Park. The City also has free playground programs in the summer, skating rinks in the winter, and a wide variety of arts, exercise classes, and sports. For a list of current and upcoming programs, check out the City website at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov). Sign-up is available online.

In October 2011, Golden Valley's active seniors program will celebrate its 50th anniversary. Local seniors continue to have access to the 5 Cities Transportation program, which provides rides at a reduced cost to those who need to get around town.



Youth soccer

## Community Centers

Most City recreation programs are held at City parks and Brookview Community Center. Some are held at Davis Community Center, which is attached to Meadowbrook School and is the result of a collaboration between the City and the Hopkins School District. The Brookview Park shelters and Brookview Community Center can also be rented by citizens for private parties (see page 13).

As budgets allows, the City has goals for a more comprehensive community recreational hub that supports social, cultural, physical and entertainment activities for all ages, indoors and out.

The Brookview Community Center building dates to the 1920s and lacks the amenities of newer community centers in other cities.

While citizens would like to see improvements, the City is hampered by cost constraints.

"Current budget restraints put on hold certain facility goals," explains Rick Jacobson, director of parks and recreation. "Everybody is feeling the economic crunch and we're no different."

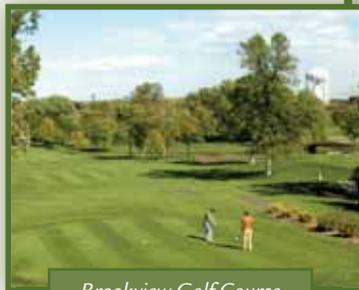
For now, the City works to make the most of its aging facilities. Brookview Community Center is home to a variety of activities for people of all ages. It is also the site of many local weddings, reunions, graduation parties, and other social gatherings as well as business and club meetings.

## Brookview Golf Course

Brookview Golf Course was built in the 1920s and operated as a private country club until 1947. The City of Golden Valley purchased Brookview in the mid-1960s and began official operations in 1967. The Par 3 Course and Driving Range were added in 1977.

Brookview is one of the heaviest played and best maintained golf courses in Minnesota. It offers leagues and lesson programs for all ages and skill levels, a driving range, and a grill that serves as a community gathering spot.

In an effort to foster cooperation across city boundaries, this year there is a new golf patron card program with Braemar, Baker, and Brookview Golf courses, giving Golden Valley residents more and cheaper recreation opportunities in the wider community.



Brookview Golf Course



Brookview Community Center



# A Butterfly, An Umbrella, & The Snows Of Wirth Park:

## This Year's Winners Of Views Of The Valley

From the butterfly in "Rest Time" to the umbrella in "Hoping For Sun," the 2011 Views of the Valley Photo Contest winners capture the tranquil atmosphere and natural beauty residents of this community have grown to expect.

A panel of judges selected winners in three categories: Natural, Lifestyle, and Enhanced. A People's Choice winner is selected by the public through online and ballot box voting. Overall grand prize went to "Rest Time," by Patrick O'Rourke. People's Choice went to "Hoping For Sun" by Kalin Kauppila.

The first place prize in each of the three categories is \$50. The People's Choice prize is \$25. The overall grand prize is an additional \$50. Winners also receive certificates of appreciation.

The Views of the Valley contest aims to promote Golden Valley and civic pride. Judges for 2011 were John Michael, a KMSP producer and Patch.com photographer; Margie Vigoren, communications specialist for the City of Plymouth; Mary Tan, communications coordinator for the City of Brooklyn Park; and Chris O'Connor, a producer for Northwest Community TV.

Next year's contest deadline will be June 6, 2012. 

NATURAL GOLDEN VALLEY HONORABLE MENTIONS



Swamp Stump // Peter Mainz



Striped Caterpillar // Jan Prazak



FIRST PLACE NATURAL GOLDEN VALLEY & OVERALL GRAND PRIZE WINNER

Rest Time // Patrick O'Rourke



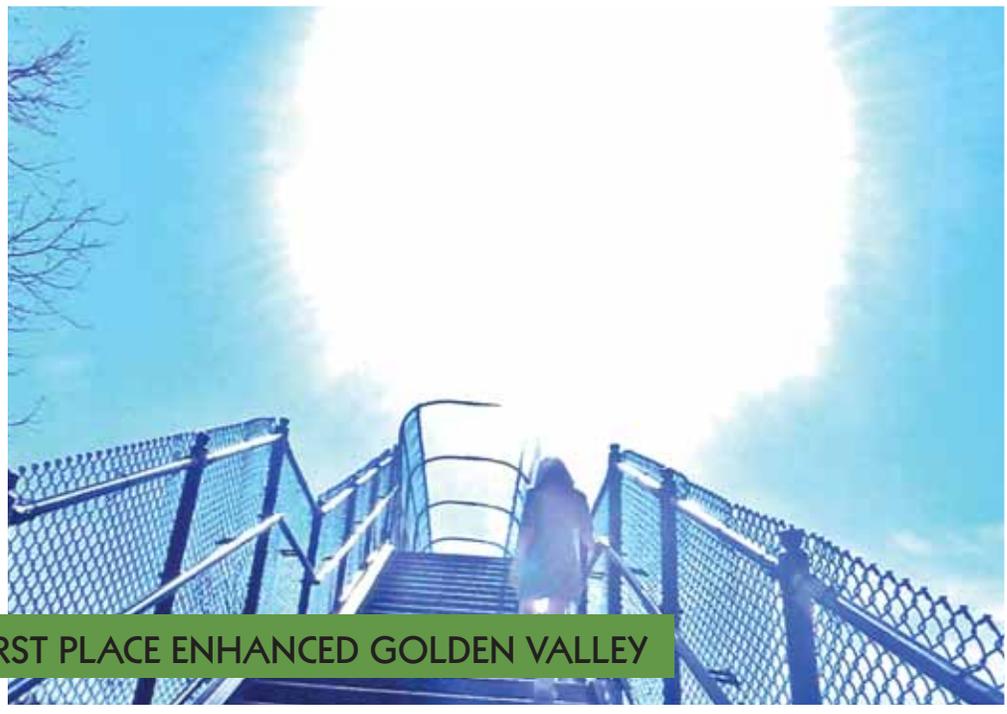
FIRST PLACE GOLDEN VALLEY LIFESTYLE

Ski...Wirth // Janice Laulainen



PEOPLE'S CHOICE & GOLDEN VALLEY LIFESTYLE HONORABLE MENTION

Hoping For Sun // Kalin Kauppila



FIRST PLACE ENHANCED GOLDEN VALLEY

Life Is A Journey // Audrey Jewett

# Police Dept Bike-A-Long

Saturday, Sept 10 • 1 pm

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

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



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

The tour will begin at the Golden Valley Police Department (7800 Golden Valley Road) at 1 pm Saturday, Sept 10, and return there around 4 pm.

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

This light-hearted and fun journey is one you won't want to miss. To register, contact GVPD at 763-593-8079 or [police@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:police@goldenvalleymn.gov).



# Police Share Afternoons In Golden Valley Parks

One day a week throughout the summer, Golden Valley police and firefighters head out to a Golden Valley park and spend time with the children from the neighborhood.

On a recent June afternoon in Hampshire Park, about 40 kids showed up to hear a lecture on fireworks safety, eat pizza, and play in the spray of a fire truck hose.

"We talk to the kids. We give them safety lectures. We bring ice cream and pizza, and we all have a good time," says Police Sergeant Denny Arons. "We want people to get to know us, so we become a trusted partner in the community."

The Golden Valley Police and Fire Departments also make a point to visit areas with multiple-housing units with families in need.

"We want to give kids opportunities to have a fun-filled afternoon with no strings attached and no money out of their own pocket," Arons says.

Police Chief Stacy Altonen says the strength of a Police Department depends on the connection it has with its community.

Educational efforts and outreach keep people's eyes more open and sharp, helping them spot suspicious activity, Altonen explains. The efforts also strengthen people's connections with the Police Department and neighbors, leaving less room for criminals.



## Neighborhood Watch Meetings

**ZONE 1**  
Sept 27

**ZONE 2**  
Oct 11

**ZONE 3**  
Nov 14

7-8 pm  
Training Room  
Golden Valley Police Dept  
7800 Golden Valley Rd



# When It Comes To Stroke Treatment, Time Is Brain

Stroke is one of the leading causes of death and disability both statewide and nationally, and given Golden Valley's demographics, the Golden Valley Fire Department believes it's especially important for people to get educated about it.

"This is an epidemic that needs awareness," says Fire Education Specialist Stephen Baker.

The longer it takes to get treatment after a stroke, the more brain damage occurs, Baker says. And it's a steep correlation. Every second counts. A few minutes could mean the difference between a full recovery or severe brain damage or death.

This is why it's imperative to know the warning signs of a stroke. The quicker you can identify the symptoms in yourself or others and call 911, the better.

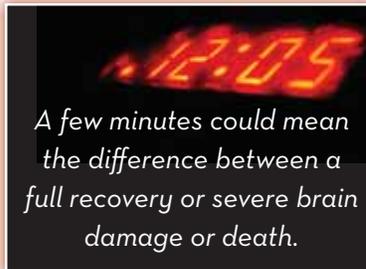
A stroke is when a brain artery becomes blocked or busts, cutting off blood to parts of the brain. The American Stroke Association lists the following as stroke warning signs:

- sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body
- sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding
- sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- sudden, severe headache with no known cause

In addition to getting to the hospital as soon as possible, it's also helpful for doctors that you take note of the time the first symptom occurred.

Not all the warning signs occur in every stroke. And people shouldn't ignore the signs even if the symptoms go away, Baker says. It's common for stroke victims to wait hours or days after initial symptoms to seek treatment, he says. That's a big mistake. Millions of brain cells die every minute a stroke goes untreated, even if the symptoms have faded.

People most at risk of stroke are smokers and those over 65 with high blood pressure, but younger people are not immune. Nearly a third of stroke victims are under 65. 



# Prepare Now for Severe Weather

Severe weather can hit with little notice, destroying property and robbing consumers of their possessions. Only in the aftermath do most people think about what they lost and whether those losses are covered by insurance. By then, it may be too late.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce urges consumers to review their home and auto insurance coverage and take inventory of their belongings to ensure they are protected in case high winds, hail, or a tornado hit their home and families.

For autos, check the "Comprehensive" or "Other Than Collision" portion of your insurance policy to see if your vehicles are covered for damage from hail, wind-driven debris, fallen trees, or tornadoes.

Homeowners should inventory their belongings so they have a checklist if they need to file a claim. The Department of Commerce website provides a home inventory checklist to help people compile a room-by-room list of their property. Go to [www.commerce.state.mn.us](http://www.commerce.state.mn.us).

If you rent and don't have renter's insurance, consider purchasing coverage. These policies are portable and can cover everything from electronics to clothing.

For insurance questions, call the Department of Commerce Consumer Response Team at 651-296-2488 or 800-657-3602 or go to [www.insurance.mn.gov](http://www.insurance.mn.gov). 

**SCUBA Diver.  
Private Pilot.  
Firefighter.**

**Drew  
New Recruit,  
2009**

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

YES, HE'S A SCUBA DIVER. YES, HE'S A PRIVATE pilot. But Drew Gerling's true hobby is helping people.

A financial planner by day, Gerling volunteers his piloting skills to fly non-critical patients to medical facilities. He's also the only SCUBA instructor in the world certified to teach diving to people dependent on ventilators. The program, Diving A Dream, focuses on giving people with disabilities, such as Muscular Dystrophy and paralysis, the chance to SCUBA dive.

So it's no surprise that when Gerling came to a Golden Valley Fire Department Open House and saw another chance to help people in his community, he went for it. He says he couldn't be happier.

## I/I INSPECTION PROGRAM

As part of the City's I/I reduction program (see story at right), Golden Valley property owners must pass a Point of Sale I/I inspection and obtain a Certificate of I/I Compliance from the City before selling or transferring title of property.

There are two options for a Point of Sale I/I Inspection: an inspection performed by the City, or an inspection performed by a licensed plumber. Plumbers who do inspections must be pre-approved by the City and must submit inspection results to the City for review. Inspections include a televised observation of the sanitary sewer service.

If the property fails inspection, the City issues a correction notice. Any improper connections or significant I/I defects in the sanitary sewer service pipe must be corrected before the City will issue a Certificate of I/I Compliance. If a Certificate of I/I Compliance is more than one year old, a sump pump inspection is required before a sale or transfer of ownership.

The City offers free voluntary I/I inspections to all properties in its Pavement Management Program (PMP) projects.

## I/I INSPECTION PROCESS

### 1. Submit Application and Pay Fee

The application fee is \$250 for residential properties and \$750 (per building) for commercial or multi-unit buildings.

### 2. Schedule an Inspection

Call 763-593-8030 between 8 am and 4 pm to schedule an inspection. Provide permit number, if application was submitted online, and at least 24-hour advance notice. Permit applications are available at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov) or at City Hall.

### 3. Prepare for Inspection

Visit [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/utilities/ii-inspection.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/utilities/ii-inspection.php) for a pre-inspection checklist.

### 4. Wait for Review

Allow up to five working days for the City to review the inspection video and issue a compliance certificate or correction notice.

# I/I Update: Data Shows Peak Flow Reduction

The City of Golden Valley has entered its fourth year of performing inflow and infiltration (I/I) inspections, and repairs to sewer lines are ongoing. I/I peak rates have been reduced based on measurements taken after the May 22, 2011 storm event, despite the fact that groundwater levels are the highest in several years.

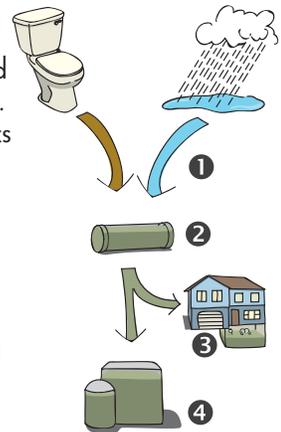
## THE PROBLEM

Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) is the excess flow of clear water <sup>①</sup> into the City's sanitary sewer system <sup>②</sup>. Inflow is when clear water from illegal connections of sump pumps, downspouts, and foundation drains is channeled directly into sanitary sewer pipes. Infiltration is when groundwater seeps into sewer pipes via cracks or leaky joints.

Because the sanitary sewer system was not designed to handle this excess clear water, it becomes overloaded during times of high groundwater or heavy rainfall.

The excess clear water from I/I problems uses sanitary sewer capacity needed for wastewater. The result is sewer backups <sup>③</sup> and increased costs (about \$300–\$400 million annually) for needlessly putting clear water through the wastewater treatment process <sup>④</sup>.

As one of many cities with excess I/I, Golden Valley has been working with the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) to reduce it.



## THE SOLUTION

To avoid MCES surcharges, Golden Valley began an I/I mitigation program in 2006. While the City has always repaired or replaced the public portion of sanitary sewer piping as part of its Pavement Management Program (PMP), it developed an inspection program to detect improper connections or significant I/I defects in private sanitary sewer service pipe as well (see sidebar).

MCES and City officials agree that I/I reduction most often requires an ongoing effort of public and private improvements.

To date, the City has inspected, repaired, or replaced approximately 25 miles (22 percent) of 113 miles of public sanitary sewer pipe. On the private side, 2,674 (33 percent) of Golden Valley's approximate 8,000 private sewer services have been inspected and of those, 2,000 (25 percent of all properties, or 75 percent of those inspected) are now compliant (see I/I Inspections table below for details).

"Addressing the City's I/I problem takes a commitment from the public and private sector," says Bert Tracy, public works maintenance manager. "We still have a long way to go."

I/I Inspections (as of April 18, 2011)	Point Of Sale	PMP	Total
Properties Inspected	1,875	799	2,674
Compliant	1,602	398	2,000
Compliant after PMP (reported as Point of Sale)	—	17	17
Non-compliant*	273	384	657

\* Of non-compliant properties found during voluntary PMP inspections, 15 were due to improper sump pumps/foundation drains, 271 were due to pipe or joint defects, and 98 were due to obstructions in the pipes, no access to the pipe, etc.

# Some Park Buildings To Undergo Summer Repairs

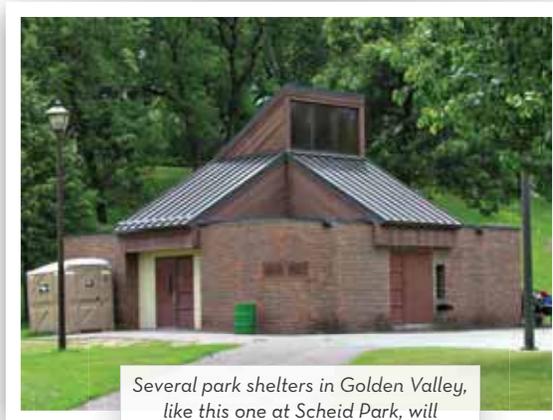
This summer, the City will do a variety of much-needed repairs on a majority of its park shelter and picnic area buildings. The exterior repairs will include replacing windows and siding, caulking around windows, applying sealants, and painting.

“Whenever a structure is over 15 years old, these types of repairs are necessary,” says Al Lundstrom, park maintenance supervisor. “These buildings are nearly 40 years old.”

Not all park buildings are scheduled for repair, but those under construction will still be available for use by park patrons.

“We’re not doing a complete overhaul of the structures, so they can still be used during construction,” Lundstrom says. “We don’t anticipate closing any of them.”

With a budget of about \$45,000, the project is part of the City’s capital improvement program and has been planned for five years. ~



Several park shelters in Golden Valley, like this one at Scheid Park, will undergo repairs this summer.

# CITY TRAILS ALSO TO GET ATTENTION

There are 14.5 miles of trails in Golden Valley that are owned and maintained by the City, and there are additional trails that are owned and maintained by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the Three Rivers Park District. The City’s Trail and Sidewalk System Plan helps identify needs and develop long-term goals and program improvements.

This summer, the plan calls for an assessment of all City trails to determine the overall quality of the system. While City crews continually monitor the trails for defects and perform needed repairs, an overall assessment will allow staff to direct resources to the highest needs and maintain the system in a cost-effective manner.

Summer maintenance plans also call for work on the trails in Medley Park, which will be rebuilt to current accessibility standards. City crews will remove the old trail and install four inches of base material and three inches of asphalt for a new 8-foot-wide accessible trail. ~

# Host Your Event At Brookview

Brookview Park and Brookview Community Center offer pleasant, cost-effective options for parties and picnics.

## Brookview 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. 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.

## 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. Facilities include a large banquet room, 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.

Meeting 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.



# To Yield Or Not To Yield

The following excerpts from the *Minnesota Driver's Manual* ([www.mndriveinfo.org](http://www.mndriveinfo.org)) are good reminders of right-of-way rules at intersections.

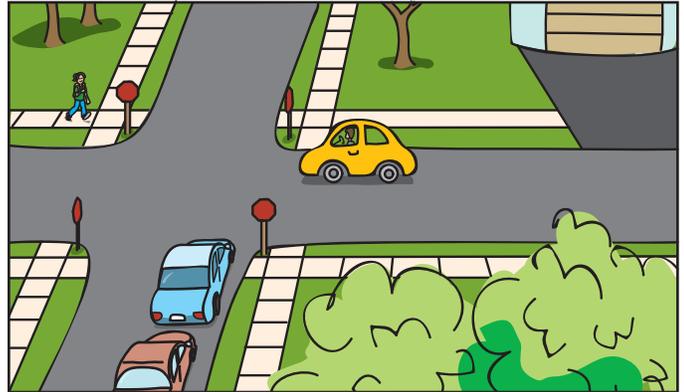
- When two vehicles reach an intersection at the same time and there is no traffic light or signal, the driver of the vehicle on the left must yield to the vehicle on the right.
- When two vehicles reach an intersection at the same time and all-way stop signs or flashing red traffic lights control the intersection, the driver on the left must yield to the driver on the right.
- A driver who wishes to make a left turn must yield to vehicles approaching from the opposite direction when these vehicles are in the intersection or are near enough to pose the risk of a crash.
- When a green arrow signal indicates that a vehicle may enter an intersection to make a left turn, the driver must yield to other vehicles or pedestrians already within the intersection. After yielding, the driver may continue in the direction of the arrow.
- When two vehicles approach an uncontrolled "T" intersection, the driver of the vehicle that is turning must yield to all cross traffic.
- Drivers approaching a public road from a private road or driveway must stop and yield to pedestrians and traffic.
- Drivers in the right lane of traffic must yield right-of-way to transit and metro mobility buses attempting to merge from a bus stop or shoulder.
- When a funeral procession identifies itself through use of headlights or hazard warning lights, drivers must yield to the entire procession.
- At a stop sign with a pedestrian crosswalk, motorists must stop before entering the crosswalk. Once stopped, motorists must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians, bicyclists, and traffic before proceeding. Pedestrians will often attempt to make eye contact before stepping into the street.

# Rules + Courtesy + Safety = Intersection Etiquette

Have you ever approached a traffic signal that was flashing red and noticed that motorists were unsure how to proceed? Or perhaps you've been at an intersection controlled by a stop sign and noticed other motorists not "waiting their turn."

While it's clear that a red traffic signal or stop sign requires a complete stop, the practice of "taking turns" at an intersection, or more accurately, the practice of yielding the right-of-way, is not always clear to all motorists.

At best, this can result in frustration. At worst, it can result in conflicts with other roadway users.



THESE TWO CARS REACHED THE INTERSECTION AT THE SAME TIME. Traffic Trudy, in the blue car, must yield to the driver in the yellow car on the right.

Many roadway users already engage in behaviors that prove helpful in avoiding conflicts. We signal our turns, make eye contact, or use head nods and hand motions to give other motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists the confidence to proceed. Such communication is important since other people can't predict your actions any better than you can predict theirs.

However, roadway courtesy works only as well as people's understanding of the rules of the road.

## RIGHT-OF-WAY AND YIELDING

Right-of-way and yielding laws help traffic flow smoothly and safely. Violation of these laws is a leading cause of traffic crashes. According to the *Minnesota Driver's Manual*, in general, drivers making turns onto other roadways must yield to cross traffic and oncoming traffic. At intersections controlled by stop signs or flashing red lights, drivers must yield to the vehicle on the right. The sidebar at left features more detailed information about right-of-way and yielding.

Some of the larger roadways in Golden Valley have multiple lanes approaching stop signs. In these cases, remember that even though it may not technically be "your turn," it is acceptable to proceed simultaneously with a motorist in the lane next to you or with a motorist from an opposing approach as long as you do not create a conflict. Moving through the intersection when it is safe to do so will help decrease delays for drivers arriving behind you, as well as for drivers on the other approaches to the intersection.

The keys to successfully maneuvering through an all-way-stop-controlled intersection are rules, courtesy, and safety. Know your right-of-way rules, communicate your intentions to other users of the intersection, and exercise patience for those who behave with less consideration or may be otherwise distracted. ~



# City Council Candidates Must File By Aug 16

Golden Valley residents interested in becoming City policy makers can file to run for Mayor or City Council in this year's Nov 8 municipal election. The following eligibility guidelines and filing information will help get you started.

## Golden Valley City Offices On The Ballot:

- Mayor (four-year term)
- Two Council Members – At Large (represent entire city, four-year term)

All offices are non-partisan (don't represent political parties). Candidates who are elected take office in January 2012.

## Requirements For Eligibility To Hold Office:

- Must live in Golden Valley and be a qualified voter therein
- Must be at least 21 years old upon assuming office
- Must have established residency in the City at least 30 days before election day
- Must not have filed for any other office in the current election
- Must pay a \$5 filing fee or present a petition with the signatures of eligible voters in lieu of the filing fee (Minnesota Statute 204B.07-204B.11)
- Must file a personal financial disclosure with the Golden Valley Elections and Voter Registration Office within 14 calendar days of filing their candidacy (candidates receive a packet on campaign reporting requirements and financial disclosure reporting requirements when they file for office)
- Must provide information requested by the City that will be made available to the public

## Filing Dates:

Aug 2 through Aug 16, 8 am to 4:30 pm. Offices are open until 5 pm Aug 16. Candidates who will be absent from Minnesota during the filing period may arrange with Golden Valley Elections to file before departure.

## Withdrawal Deadline:

Aug 18 at 5 pm

## Filing Location:

City of Golden Valley General Services Department (second floor of City Hall), 7800 Golden Valley Rd

**Fee:** \$5

## For More Information:

Information packets (City elections and requirements to run for City office) are available at City Hall and on the City website at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/elections](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/elections).



## A GUIDE TO Golden Valley Government

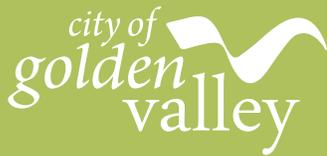
Whether you're voting or running in the upcoming City elections, it helps to be aware of Golden Valley's approach to local government.

Golden Valley is a Statutory "Plan B" city with a part-time Mayor and City Council and a full-time City Manager who serves as the chief executive officer. The City Council and Mayor are elected "at large" to represent the entire community and are empowered by law to legislate city-wide policy.

The City Council appoints the City Manager who, as the executive officer, is responsible to the Council for day-to-day administration of City matters and implementation of Council policies and directives. The City Manager appoints the City Attorney, who advises and represents the City and Council in all legal affairs. The City Manager also appoints the City's department heads and members of the management team. The plan B form of government is often referred to as the "council-manager" plan. There are 16 Plan B cities in Minnesota.

Most cities in Minnesota have weak mayor-councils, meaning that the mayor has all the powers and duties of a council member in addition to those of the mayor. The council as a whole retains ultimate administrative and legislative responsibilities and authority.

In Golden Valley, all City meetings are held at City Hall unless otherwise noted. Public participation is welcome; agendas are available for review before the meetings at City Hall and [www.goldenvalleymn.gov](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov), where you can also subscribe to email updates for City meeting agendas and other news through *GV DirectConnect*. For more information, call the City Manager's Department at 763-593-8006.



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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## Voting Locations

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

-  **Precinct 1**  
NE Fire Station  
3700 Golden Valley Rd
-  **Precinct 2**  
Valley Presbyterian Church  
3100 North Lilac Dr
-  **Precinct 3**  
Meadowbrook School  
5430 Glenwood Ave
-  **Precinct 4**  
LOGIS  
5750 Duluth St
-  **Precinct 5**  
SE Fire Station  
400 Turners Crossroad S
-  **Precinct 6**  
Golden Valley City Hall  
7800 Golden Valley Rd
-  **Precinct 7**  
Sandburg School\*  
2400 Sandburg Lane
-  **Precinct 8**  
Brookview Community Center  
200 Brookview Pkwy

\* New Location

## Register To Vote Before Or On Election Day

If you're not registered to vote, you should do so by Oct 18 to be on the roster for the Nov 8 general election. You may register by mail or in person by completing a Minnesota Voter Registration Application, available at most government offices and public libraries (and online at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/elections](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/elections)). You can pick one up at City Hall (7800 Golden Valley Rd), or you may also register directly with the county at:

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

Golden Valley Voters will elect a Mayor and two Council members Nov 8.

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

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

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

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



7800 Golden Valley Rd  
763-593-8000  
TTY: 763-593-3968  
[www.goldenvalleymn.gov](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov)

Mayor/Council Message Line: 763-593-8001

Council Members: Mike Freiberg, Paula Pentel, DeDe Scanlon, Bob Shaffer

Mayor: Linda R. Loomis City Manager: Thomas Burt

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