

Golden Valley

CityNEWS

2011 Election Results

Harris, Clausen, Freiberg Elected To Council

The Golden Valley City Council will have two new members when it reconvenes January 3, 2012—Shep Harris and Joanie Clausen. In the November 8 City election, Harris defeated Jeffrey Beck and incumbent Linda Loomis to fill the four-year mayoral term; Clausen and incumbent Mike Freiberg defeated Greg Keivit and Blair Tremere to fill two four-year Council terms. Current Council member Bob Shaffer did not seek reelection (see election results at www.goldenvalleymn.gov).

Harris has lived in Golden Valley since 2004 and works in government relations for Fredrikson & Bryon. He served on the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation in 2005 and currently serves on the Robbinsdale Schools Legislative Action Coalition Steering Committee, the Sabes Jewish Community Center Board, the Minnesota Citizen Stream Monitoring Program, and the Bassett Creek Neighborhood Group (of which he is a co-founder). Harris has a bachelor's degree from American University in Washington, DC.

Clausen is a life-long resident of Golden Valley and owner of Town Crier Promotions, a local business that sells imprinted items. Over the years, Clausen has served on the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation, as treasurer of the Golden Valley Historical Society, and was a facilitator for Envision Golden Valley. She has a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota.

Freiberg is also a life-long resident of Golden Valley and has served on the Council since 2004. He is an attorney for the Public Health Law Center and an adjunct professor of legislation at William Mitchell College of Law. He holds a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and a law degree from William Mitchell.

The newly elected Council members will be sworn into office Jan 3, 2012.

GOLDEN VALLEY TURNS 125 HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE

According to *Golden Valley: A History of a Minnesota City*, it was Dec 16, 1886 when Golden Valley was formed from Minneapolis Township by a vote of 78 to 1 at a meeting in the old District 21 schoolhouse. Village officers were elected a few weeks later, and the governing of Golden Valley commenced.

The Village Council met in the schoolhouse until construction of a new Village Hall was authorized after the 1908 election. That two-story building on Golden Valley Rd and Winnetka Ave served the community until 1959, when a new City Hall was built next door. That same year, voters chose to move the village to the council-manager form of government, and 13 years later, in 1972, Golden Valley became a city. In 1990, the City Hall building was remodeled to better serve the community.

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

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Total City Tax Levy

| | Actual 2011 | Proposed 2012 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| General Fund Levy ¹ | \$ 12,203,835 | \$ 11,952,336 |
| Fire Relief Pension Levy ² | \$ 66,000 | \$ 45,000 |
| Tax Abatement Levy ³ | \$ 300,000 | \$ 300,000 |
| Bonded Debt Levy: | | |
| Street Improvement Bonds ⁴ | \$ 3,048,201 | \$ 3,359,377 |
| Equipment Certificates ⁵ | \$ 791,414 | \$ 752,737 |
| Sub-Total | \$ 3,839,615 | \$ 4,112,114 |
| Total Levy | \$ 16,409,450 | \$ 16,409,450 |

¹ The General Fund Levy funds City operations such as police, fire, engineering, park and recreation programs, snowplowing, buildings, inspections, administration, etc.

² The Fire Relief Levy, mandated by state statute, helps fund the shortfall of the Fire Relief pension.

³ Tax abatement bonds were issued to pay for intersection improvements at Hwy 55 and Boone Ave. This debt is paid from the increased value of the new General Mills building.

⁴ The Bonded Debt Levy will increase to pay existing bond issues sold for the City's pavement management street improvements.

⁵ Equipment Certificates are debt that is sold to pay for equipment and vehicles, such as fire pumpers, police squads, and dump trucks. The City schedules replacement of equipment and reviews each item before the purchase is made. ~

2012 Tax Levy Remains At 2011 Level

One of the City's primary goals is continuing quality services for its taxpayers. Golden Valley's responsible, long-term perspective to financial planning and management is evaluated each year, starting with budget planning in March and concluding in December, when the City Council adopts the budget and certifies the final property tax figure.

PROPOSED CITY TAX LEVY

At its Sept 6 meeting, the Golden Valley City Council certified a preliminary 2012 tax levy of \$16,409,450, a 0% increase from 2011.

TOTAL LEVY

The total levy is made up of a **general fund levy**, **fire relief pension levy**, **tax abatement levy**, and **bonded debt levy** (see table). For 2012, the general fund expenditures decreased by \$19,420 (the result of savings from a new joint dispatch contract and use of a state fuel consortium). The City Council directed staff to decrease the general fund levy by \$251,499 to offset the impact of the state legislature's repeal of market value homestead credit (MVHC) and establishment of the new Homestead Market Value Exclusion (HMVE).

HOMESTEAD MARKET VALUE EXCLUSION

The old MVHC gave a credit from property taxes for homes valued up to \$413,800 (if the property was claimed as a primary residence). The full credit of \$304 was given to homes valued at \$76,000 or less. As values approached \$413,800, the homestead credit declined to \$0.

The new HMVE will exclude a portion of homestead market value from taxation. The full exclusion of \$30,400 will be given to homes valued at \$76,000 or less. As values approach \$413,800, the exclusion declines to \$0. Because the value is excluded, tax rates increase. The HMVE lowered the City's total tax capacity by \$1.062 million from 2011 to 2012, which increased the City's tax rate. When this higher tax rate is applied to a reduced tax capacity, it results in an increased City property tax.

PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX STATEMENT

City taxes make up one portion of the entire tax bill. To understand the City portion of your overall proposed tax levy, find the line on the statement that says "City of Golden Valley."

For more information about how your City tax dollars are used or the City's proposed 2011 budget or tax levy, check out the City budget or past issues of Golden Valley CityNews at www.goldenvalleymn.gov, or contact the City finance director at 763-593-8010. ~

Public Hearing

The City Council will hold a public hearing and take final action on the 2012-2013 City budget and 2012 proposed tax levy Dec 6, 7 pm, in the City Council Chambers.

Introducing The GOLDEN VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The **Golden Valley Community Foundation (GVCF)** is a new nonprofit public charity created to support activities imagined by the Envision Connection Project, which was founded in 2005 to help initiate ideas brought forth during Envision Golden Valley. This citizen-led organization allows community members to financially support initiatives that enhance quality of life for the people of

Golden Valley. This includes events and activities like the Lilac Project, Golden Valley Days, and other neighborhood celebrations, or support for a Brookview bandshell, to name a few.

For more information or to donate, visit www.GVCFoundation.org. ~

Won't You Be My E-Neighbor?

Golden Valley is helping pioneer a CommonPlace.

A new social networking company based on community engagement, not individual profiles, has selected Golden Valley as one of 12 cities in the world to employ the start-up paradigm.

As opposed to Facebook or MySpace, CommonPlace is all about location. The only people who can use the network are those with Golden Valley addresses, maintaining a level of privacy and simplicity not seen on other networking sites. The free site is all about easing connections with people who live closest to you.

Need to borrow a ladder? Promote an event? Get babysitter or electrician recommendations? With CommonPlace, you can instantly send a message to all your neighbors, whether it's an emergency alert or a simple question. Anyone who wants to respond can click on any neighborhood post and a box will appear for you to reply directly to your neighbor.

The site, at www.goldenvalley.ourcommonplace.com, replaces i-neighbors, Golden Valley's former online community bulletin board.

So, why Golden Valley? Mayor Linda Loomis took an interest in the project, seeing it as something that promises the benefits of a site like Facebook but without the drawbacks, and encouraged the company to include Golden Valley as one of a handful of pilot cities.

Jeremy Foreman is the CommonPlace field operative sent here to set up the program and get the word out throughout town. He hopes to get most businesses and residents to sign on and become active users.

"The goal is to strengthen community engagement," says Foreman, who organized some volunteers to work as a street team to go out and knock on doors and pass out flyers about the site.

For questions or to volunteer for the project, contact Foreman at Jeremy@commonplace.in.



How To Sign Up

- 1 Visit www.goldenvalley.ourcommonplace.com
- 2 Enter your name, email address (which will remain private) and physical address (to prove you are a resident of Golden Valley).
- 3 You will be asked to create a password and that's it. You'll have a profile and instantly be connected to those with whom you share a common place.

Enter 2012 Run The Valley T-Shirt Contest

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

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

The T-shirts will be white, all cotton, long sleeve.

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

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

The deadline for entries is Jan 5, 2012. Submit entries with your name, address, phone number, and email to Brookview Community Center, 200 Brookview Parkway, Golden Valley, MN 55426.



2011



2010



2009

Small Business Owner? The City Wants Your Input



The City of Golden Valley recently received a Hennepin County grant to provide assistance to businesses and start-up entrepreneurs through a program called Open to Business, an initiative of the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers. Before the City moves forward with the program, it would like to hold focus groups with small business owners and entrepreneurs to get ideas on how best to communicate with the business community about this program and other business concerns. If you are interested in participating in a focus group, contact Jeanne Andre at 763-593-8014 or Cheryl Weiler at 763-593-8004.



RE-USING YOUR Old Bins

There will be a new blue recycling cart in town starting Jan 1, 2012, and in the true spirit of recycling, residents will be able to keep their old bins to re-use however they want. Here are a few ideas:

- Fill with toys, sports equipment, gardening implements, tools, pet paraphernalia, etc. Stack and store or tote.
- Line with a garbage bag and use as a trash can.
- Fill it with things you need to transport in your vehicle but want to contain.
- Haul stuff to your kids' sporting events, then use it as a stool. Works well as a drum for cheering.
- Use as a mold for gigantic snow fort building blocks.
- Give it away to a friend who needs a sturdy storage bin.

If you've discovered a great new use for your old recycling bin, let us know. We'll share them on the City website so others can benefit. Send your ideas to publicworksdept@goldenvalleymn.gov.

Curbside Recycling Program Will Change Jan 1

Starting Jan 1, 2012, Golden Valley will have a new, improved curbside recycling program featuring wheeled carts instead of bins, the collection of additional recyclables with no sorting required, and every-other-week service with a new hauler. Convenience, potential cost savings, and more recyclables are the driving factors behind the change.

Until Jan 1, curbside customers should continue to separate their recyclables as usual and set them out in the current bins.

What Will Change

Recycling Hauler—Allied Waste provided a more favorable proposal than the City's current hauler, Waste Management, for the curbside recycling program.

Recycling Containers—Allied Waste will provide every curbside recycling household in Golden Valley with a new 68-gallon recycling cart with wheels and a lid. The footprint of the new cart will be only a few inches larger than two of the present recycling bins. In most cases, they will fit in the space currently taken by the two bins. The new carts will be delivered in December but can't be used until after Jan 1.

Service Schedule—Recycling pick-up will be every other Friday instead of every Friday, with approximately one-half of the City serviced one week and the other half serviced on the alternating week. Fewer truck runs will reduce wear and tear on the City's streets. Watch for a mailing from Allied Waste in mid-November, which will outline the new pick-up schedules.

Recyclables Collected—In addition to all materials accepted in the current recycling program, you'll also be able to recycle yogurt cups and other plastic containers labeled #1–7 (see sidebar on page 5), paper milk and juice cartons, and plastic bags. No sorting will be necessary, just place everything in the cart together.

Special Recycling Services—For a fee, Allied will provide curbside pick-up of electronics and appliances (watch for more information next spring). You must call Allied in advance for this service. Never place these items with regular recycling, as they must go through a different recycling process.



What Won't Change

Cart Storage—As outlined by City ordinance, recycling containers must be stored no more than 3 feet from the primary or accessory structure and must at all times be located behind the front of the primary structure. Containers may be placed at the curb from 5 pm the day before collection to 9 pm the day of collection.

Fees—The recycling fee posted to your quarterly City utility bill will remain the same. The amount residents are charged on their utility bill covers only a portion of the entire City recycling program. Besides curbside recycling, the program also includes the Spring Brush Pick-Up, Mighty Tidy Day, and the Fall Leaf Drop. At least in the short term, the new contract will help the City absorb some of the increasing costs of the various recycling programs without needing to change the quarterly recycling fee.

To save money, the City will continue to contract jointly for recycling services with the Cities of Plymouth and Minnetonka. Allied Waste's proposal for the contract was 18 percent lower than the next closest proposal. In addition, the City will get 100 percent of the revenue generated from the sale of recycled materials (25 percent more than it currently receives). And because the contractor provides the recycling carts, the City will no longer have to budget \$10,000 per year for recycling container replacement.

Golden Valley Recycles

Holiday Schedule

The holiday pick-up schedule for the remainder of 2011 is listed below.

| Holiday Week | Pick-Up Date |
|--------------|--------------|
| Christmas | Fri, Dec 23 |
| New Year's | 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. This number changes after Jan 1, 2012.

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

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

New Recycling Program Brings Questions

Since announcing the upcoming Jan 1, 2012 change in its recycling program, the City has received several questions from citizens on a number of topics. The most frequently asked questions are answered below.

What should I do if I am on vacation when the new recycling cart is delivered in December?

Carts will generally be delivered to an entire block on the same day. If you will be out of town, please ask a friend, house sitter, or neighbor to wheel the cart up to your garage or other storage location. That way, when you get back from your trip you can resume recycling uninterrupted.

More Questions?

For more information about the new recycling program, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recycling or contact Golden Valley Public Works at 763-593-8030.

How can I request a larger cart?

You may request a larger cart (96 gallon) as soon as you determine you need it by calling Allied Waste at 952-941-5174. If the larger cart is still not enough, request an additional cart from Allied Waste.

How can I request a smaller cart?

The City's recycling contract with Allied Waste requires residents to wait until March 1, 2012, before requesting a smaller cart. There are a few reasons for this two-month wait. First, recycling will be collected every-other-week instead of weekly (see schedule in box below), and you'll also be able to recycle more materials. Trying out the new 68-gallon cart first will give you time to see how that size works for your household and to make sure you don't run out of room in your cart during the extra week. Second, unlike the current recycling program, the new program requires that all recyclables fit *inside* the cart, including flattened cardboard. If after two months you find the standard cart too large and want to try a smaller one, call Allied Waste at 952-941-5174 and request a smaller cart.

What should I do with my old recycling bins?

The City encourages residents to find ways to re-use their old recycling bins (see sidebar on page 4). If you have questions, contact Public Works at 763-593-8030.

What should I do if I can't fit my new recycling cart in my garage?

Many people keep recycling and garbage containers outside because of limited garage space. If you choose to store your recycling cart outside, follow the City ordinance and make sure it is always located behind the front of the primary structure (house) and is no more than 3 feet away from the house or accessory structure (garage).

What is wax-coated cardboard and why can't I recycle it?

Wax-coated cardboard has wax added during manufacturing so it can be frozen without becoming soggy and losing strength or shape. For this reason it does not break down the same way as other cardboard in the recycling process. Wax-coated cardboard packaging typically holds frozen items. Some examples include certain ice cream containers (such as Edy's brand) and cans of frozen concentrated juices (cardboard texture, not plastic). Remember, cardboard packaging meant to go in the freezer is not recyclable, but plastic coated items such as milk cartons, juice boxes, and cartons of soup/broth are recyclable. 



PLASTICS #1-7

After Jan 1, 2012, Golden Valley's curbside recycling program will accept plastics #1-7. To determine if a plastic container is recyclable, just make sure the number in the recycling triangle is between #1 and #7 (all items should be clean of residue before recycling). A few examples are listed below:

- shampoo, prescription drug, hand lotion, and soap bottles
- soda, water, coffee creamer, honey, vegetable oil, syrup, and fruit juice bottles
- household cleaning supply bottles (spray bottles, not including the sprayer)
- milk, laundry detergent, and cat litter jugs
- yogurt, sour cream, cottage cheese, cool-whip, and butter tubs
- peanut butter and mayonnaise jars
- "to-go" or "take out" plastic drinking cups
- plastic trays like those used for microwave dinners
- clear plastic "clam-shell" containers like those used for fruit and bakery goods
- some plastic packaging used for things such as salad mixes or diapers
- pre-moistened wipe containers 

GRAY OR BLUE?

The new recycling program divides the City into gray and blue service areas, with service provided on alternating weeks. Allied Waste mailed information about your service week directly to your home in mid-November. If you have questions about your service week, call Allied Waste at 952-941-5174.

| JANUARY 2012 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | Th | F | Sa |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

Recreation OPPORTUNITIES

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

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Supper With Santa (children of all ages, must be accompanied by an adult)—Dec 2, 6–7:30 pm, Brookview. Pizza, holiday show, visit from Santa. Must pre-register.

Mailbox To The North Pole—Use Brookview's special direct-to-the-North-Pole mailbox through Dec 16. Santa requests each letter include a full name and address so he can reply.

Youth Basketball (boys & girls grades 2–6)—Jan–mid-March. Register by Dec 16. Volunteer coaches needed.

Mites Basketball (boys & girls grades K–1)—Jan 21–March 10. Fundamentals (dribbling, passing, shooting), instructional scrimmages, mini basketballs, lowered baskets. Teams formed at first meeting.

Ice Hockey Skills Camp (boys & girls ages 5–10)—Dec 26–30, 12:15–1:30 pm: ages 5–7; 1:45–3 pm: ages 8–10. Emphasis on skating, puck handling, shooting, positioning, goal tending, and basic rules. Residents: \$50/non-residents: \$55.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Davis Community Center gyms closed Nov 30, Dec 23–27, Dec 30–Jan 1.

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

Adult Open Volleyball—Tues/Thurs, 8–10 pm; Sun, 1–3 pm. \$4 per time/person

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

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

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

Skating Season Is Here, Give A Cheer!

Don't fret too much about the oncoming winter. Golden Valley is rife with seasonal activities for the whole family, and right at the top of that list is the winter tradition of ice skating. Golden Valley's rinks offer fun and recreation for cold weather enthusiasts of all ages.

The City has 16 recreational sheets of ice at 10 locations. Building and maintaining them depends on many variables. To start making ice, crews need temperatures to be around 0° to -10°F for a week or so and frozen ground about four inches deep. Then crews can establish a six-inch ice base, which will help rinks survive most warm snaps. The final step is to build a smooth "finish surface" on the ice.

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

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

During extreme snow or cold or warm weather, rinks and shelter buildings may be closed. Check by calling 763-512-2350. If you have concerns or questions about ice conditions or rink maintenance, call Park Maintenance at 763-593-8046.



Skating Rinks in Golden Valley

Schedule

Rinks open Dec 17 and close Feb 20 (weather permitting).

Monday–Friday: 4–9 pm

Saturday: 10 am–9 pm

Sunday: 1–9 pm

Holidays

Christmas Eve:
10 am–4 pm

Christmas Day:
closed

New Year's Eve:
10 am–7 pm

Martin Luther King Day: 10 am–9 pm

Presidents' Day:
10 am–9 pm

Winter Break Weekdays:
noon–9 pm

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

Locations

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

| | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|---|----|---|
| Gearty | 3101 Regent Ave N | H | GS | W |
| Hampshire | 1610 Louisiana | H | GS | W |
| Lakeview | 1521 Hillsboro Ave N | | GS | W |
| Lions | 151 Louisiana Ave N | H | GS | W |
| Medley | 2331 Ensign Ave N | H | GS | W |
| Scheid | 1856 Toledo Ave N | H | GS | W |
| Wesley | 8305 Wesley | H | GS | W |
| North Tyrol | 900 Westwood Dr N | | GS | |
| South Tyrol | 1510 Kaltern Lane | | GS | |
| Yosemite | 351 Yosemite Ave N | | GS | |

H=Hockey rink W=Supervised warming shelter
GS=General skating rink

Golden Valley Volunteers Have Been B-U-S-Y

There are no shortage of volunteering opportunities in Golden Valley, and 2011 has been a busy year for people looking to give back to the community.

This spring, volunteers from several local church and community organizations worked with the Neighbors Helping Neighbors cooperative initiative to help residents around Golden Valley with chores like yard raking and exterior window cleaning. For more information, visit www.prismmpls.com/programs/neighbors.html or call Neighbors Helping Neighbors at 763-529-1350.

This summer, volunteers helped host park events such as Water Day and the Penny Carnival, and community events like the Ice Cream Social. Groups also weeded the lilac beds and other plantings along Hwy 55 and weeded and planted medians along Winnetka Ave.

This fall, Valley Volunteer Day brought out 25 residents to pick up litter near scenic ponds, bust buckthorn in a public park, and help create habitats for chimney swifts, a bird whose population is in decline. The 4th annual Lilac Project drew an additional 70 volunteers to plant 955 lilacs, plants, and trees plus 460 daffodils along Hwy 55 from Douglas Dr to Glenwood Ave.

All year long, volunteers helped plan and coordinate Golden Valley's 125th Anniversary events, including seminars, historic tours, a time capsule project, and more.

Many of these projects and volunteers were matched up through Golden Valley's Bridge Builder initiative, which brings together local organizations and citizens to organize volunteer opportunities throughout the community.

If you're interested in any of these activities or want to learn more about how else you can serve Golden Valley, sign up for Bridge Builders email notifications from GV DirectConnect at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe/.



Senior Stuff

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

LET'S TALK TRASH: GOLDEN VALLEY'S NEW RECYCLING PROGRAM

Wed, Dec 7, 10 am. Recycling will be easier than ever when Golden Valley starts its new curbside program Jan 1, 2012. Come and learn all about it from Recycling Coordinator Mark Ray. Register by Dec 5.

Holiday Tea

Mon, Dec 12, 1–2:30 pm. Tea, petite sandwiches and desserts, and a performance by pianist Dan Wascoe. Bring your own tea cup to add to the fun. \$7 includes entertainment and refreshments. Register by Dec 7.

Tai Chi For Health & Arthritis

Tuesdays, Jan 10–Feb 21, 8:45 am: Basic/Beginners, 9:45 am: Moving On (must have taken at least one session). \$42/resident, \$47/non-resident.

"MARY WANDERERS" TRIP TRAVELOGUE

Mon, Jan 30, 1–2:30 pm. Meet Alice and Mary, our trip planner and escort, and learn about the 2012 trips as you enjoy pie and ice cream. Games, prizes, and more! \$4. Register by Jan 26. Code: 11130.

NAVIGATING MEDICARE

Mon, Feb 13, 6:30–8:30 pm. Class covers Medicare Parts A, B, and D coverage, is educational, and is not a sales pitch. Offered in cooperation with SCS, a non-profit agency. \$10 includes instructor fee, class materials, and refreshments (Note: Couples may share materials and pay only one fee). Min: 6. Register by Feb 6.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DONATION

Helps offset some costs of the senior program, plus the newsletter is mailed to your door. \$5/residents, \$8/non-residents for Jan 1–Dec 31, 2012. Code: 11112.

Golden Valley Seniors Program
Brookview Community Center
 200 Brookview Parkway
 Golden Valley, MN 55426
 763-512-2339

8 am–4:30 pm, Monday–Friday

Top to bottom: A BROWNIE TROOP weeds planting beds along Hwy 55, Lilac Project volunteers move mulch, Golden Valley Garden Club members plant the Winnetka Ave medians, General Mills employees pick up litter, and citizens bust buckthorn on Valley Volunteer Day.

GOLDEN VALLEY



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 has revisited one category in each issue. We finish with Government.

Government

While citizens are the heart of a community, the business of running a community falls to local government. Golden Valley is governed by a City Council of five, each elected to overlapping four-year terms. The Council is advised by several boards and commissions staffed by citizen volunteers. Day-to-day business is carried out by professional staff who deliver city services and administer ordinances set forth by the Council. Citizens can be as involved as they want to be, with opportunities to participate in advisory and planning groups and at public hearings and open houses. The City of Golden Valley strives to deliver quality services in an accountable manner that involves partnerships, citizen participation, and innovation.

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE: Guided by involved citizens and a community vision, Golden Valley's government is responsive, efficient, and imaginative as it delivers services and makes decisions to advance our quality of life.

Supporting Themes & Ideas

- ◆ Government actively seeks creative ways to manage community resources, deliver services, and ensure public safety.
- ◆ City government encourages citizen participation with a flexible structure that involves neighborhoods, businesses, and other community interests.
- ◆ Our City is managed in a responsive, efficient, business-like manner with a high degree of accountability to stakeholders.

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

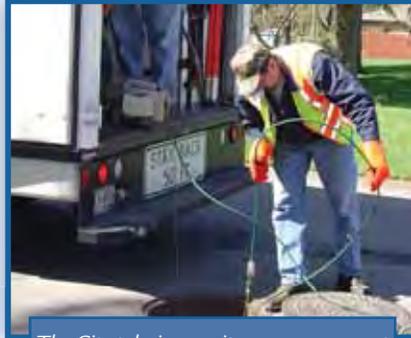
- ◆ continually looking for ways to conserve resources by partnering with other government organizations to better deliver services on everything from utility billing to public safety dipatch
- ◆ collaboration with residents and businesses on initiatives that improve the community, like the Golden Valley Community Foundation (see page 2) and Open to Business (see page 3)
- ◆ exploring projects and technology, such as social media tools, that improve interactive communication between the City and residents



City Services

The main commodity of City government is delivery of services.

One important service involves improving and maintaining infrastructure so citizens can brush, flush, and get safely from place to place. Golden Valley's sewage is collected in more than 113 miles of city-owned pipe and transported through the regional waste system to the Metropolitan Council's wastewater treatment plant in St Paul. Water is purchased through a contract with the City of Minneapolis and brought into the City through many more miles of pipe. And the City has approximately 120 miles of streets and nearly 50 miles of trails and sidewalks that must be kept at an adequate level of service and safety.



The City televises sanitary sewers as part of its maintenance program.

The City is also responsible for upholding zoning and building codes to ensure that new and existing structures are safe and meet citizens' needs. Since much of Golden Valley's housing is more than 30 years old, property maintenance standards help keep the community viable, and programs like the annual Home Remodeling Fair help citizens reinvest in their property. Planning services and the City's Comprehensive Plan guide orderly growth and redevelopment.



Training ensures that public safety personnel provide superior service.

Golden Valley keeps the community safe through its investment in Police and Fire Department staff, training, equipment, and community education. Police and Fire employees, including 50 paid on-call firefighters, all undergo rigorous training and certification to deliver the highest level of service to citizens. Dispatching is done through a partnership with the City of Edina. And both departments rely heavily on public outreach and education efforts to achieve their goals. For example, Neighborhood Watch has more than 109 groups, and safety camps and classes draw hundreds of participants each year.

The City provides many other services, including park maintenance and recreation programming, transportation and environmental management, and community development. These, along with citizen participation, were all covered in the previous five 2011 issues of *CityNews* (available at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/publications/citynews/).

Behind the scenes, the City needs a sound financial management plan that supports all of these services. This includes preparation and publishing, upon Council approval, of the biennial budget, Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), and five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). These documents are all available online at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/budget/. Golden Valley's solid financial management earned the City a AAA bond rating, the highest available, as well as annual awards for financial reporting.

Partnerships

Golden Valley engages in intergovernmental collaborations among cities, counties, school districts, and the state to improve efficiency and effectiveness. Such cooperative efforts also help local governments navigate fiscal constraints and provide quality services at a reduced cost.

The City is currently involved in 36 cooperative agreements with other government agencies that cover:

- dispatching and mutual aid for Police, Fire, and Public Works
- joint purchasing, labor relations, and insurance
- computer support services (32 cities)
- recycling, environmental, and watershed services
- water treatment and delivery services
- traffic management and transportation services
- recreation programs
- cable TV and community events
- human services
- assessing



LOGIS provides computer support for 32 cities.

Accountability & Citizen Participation

The City uses a variety of strategies and tools to take public input and keep citizens informed about decisions and activities. These include newsletters and information pieces, the website and email listserve notifications, media releases, and public access TV operations (which includes live and on-demand web streaming of city meetings and other informational videos through a partnership with Northwest Community TV). The City also develops communications plans to educate the public about City issues and initiatives, which often include open houses and neighborhood meetings to provide citizens with information on a face-to-face level.

Citizens have numerous opportunities to be involved in their City government. They can run for City Council, serve as election judges, or volunteer on the boards, commissions, and task forces that advise the City Council. They can attend City meetings, public hearings, and open house meetings. They can also volunteer as Police Reserve Officers or support the community by volunteering at various community events.



Citizens listen to a presentation at the Douglas Dr Open House.





CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY

Wednesdays, Jan 25-
Feb 29, 2012
6-9 pm

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 Jan 25 and will be held on Wednesdays from 6-9 pm at the Golden Valley Public Safety Building and the Golden Valley City Council Chambers, 7800 Golden Valley Rd.

Register today!

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/gvpdfu.

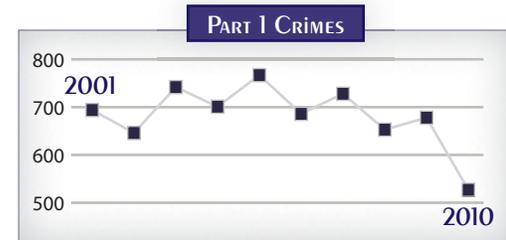
For more information, call the Golden Valley Police Department at 763-593-8079. 

GV Sees Crime Rate Decline, Fluctuate

While Golden Valley continues to see a drop in severe, or "Part 1," crimes, it is also seeing a slight uptick in less severe, or "Part 2," crimes. According to City Crime Analyst Joanne Paul, there are good reasons for this.

PART 1 CRIMES

Part 1 crimes—aggravated assault, rape, homicide, robbery, arson, burglary, and felony theft—dropped 12.5 percent since last year, and 20.5 percent since 2009, says Paul. So far this year, there were 363 Part 1 crimes committed in Golden Valley, down from 415 last year at this time.



Paul says Part 1 crimes have been dropping for the last three decades, a trend that shows no sign of stopping. She attributes it to growing crime awareness within communities, better prevention education, new trends in policing, and an aging population. Most Part 1 crimes are committed by people 24 years old or younger.

Paul also believes the drop in severe crimes indicates a broad level of dedication to the community among residents. Most people who live in Golden Valley have homes, have lived here for years, and have a stake in the quality of the community. Not only are they less likely to commit crimes, they're also more likely to take crime prevention seriously.

"People are better at notifying the police in a timely manner," Paul says. "And our Neighborhood Watch programs are working."

Also, police departments are getting better at communicating and sharing vital information with departments in other communities.

"Crime doesn't stop at the border," Paul says. "We work with other cities to analyze crime trends."

PART 2 CRIMES

Less severe crimes, or "Part 2" crimes, are not violent in nature or don't include damage to property. Although there are generally about twice as many Part 2 crimes per year than Part 1 crimes, Part 2 crimes have also dropped in Golden Valley—by about 30 percent in the last 10 years. Still, Part 2 crimes have increased 13 percent since 2009.

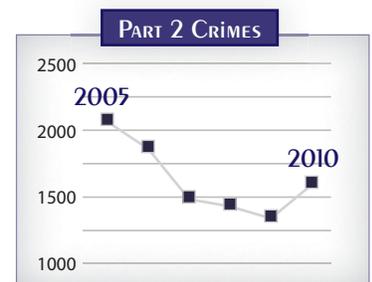
That increase isn't necessarily a bad sign, Paul says.

What it really indicates is a change in policing strategy, leading to more people getting caught. For example, Golden Valley has put a priority on stopping and ticketing traffic violators, leading to an 85 percent increase in reported traffic violations since 2009. In other words, traffic violators aren't getting away with it as often as they used to, and that's a good thing. Take away traffic violations, and Part 2 crimes have actually dropped by 15 percent since last year, Paul explains.

That's not to say people shouldn't do more to bring the numbers down further.

"It takes three things to commit a crime," Paul says. "Motivation, ability, and opportunity. We can't take away the motivation or the ability, but we can take away the opportunity. Lock your doors. Don't leave your car running unattended. Protect personal information. Call when you see something suspicious. Don't give them the opportunity."

If you have questions about crime prevention activities in Golden Valley, contact the Police Department at 763-593-8079. See also the article on the Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund on page 16. 



GVFD Offers Two Safety Opportunities

The Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) is offering community members two opportunities to improve their personal safety.



+ File of Life

A few years ago, the Golden Valley Police and Fire Departments began distributing to residents an invaluable resource to emergency responders in life-threatening situations.

The File of Life card is kept on your refrigerator in a red plastic magnetized pocket. It lists household members' names, emergency medical contacts, insurance information, health problems, medications, allergies,

recent surgeries, and much more. First responders know to look at the refrigerator for this information.

The card allows paramedics to obtain accurate medical information the patient may have forgotten or is unable to provide.

For more information or to receive a File of Life, call 763-593-8079 or stop by the Police Department.



+ CPR Class

If you've never learned CPR but at least want the basics, now's your chance. On **Tuesday, Jan 10, 7-9 pm**, the GVFD will host the Family & Friends CPR class at Brookview Community Center for \$10. The instructor will be Stephen Baker, a paramedic and Golden Valley's fire education specialist.

The class teaches the lifesaving skills of adult, child, and infant CPR; adult and child AED (automated external defibrillator) awareness; and relief of choking in an adult, child, or infant. Skills

are taught in a dynamic group environment using American Heart Association techniques, which provides students with the most hands-on CPR practice time possible.

This course does not provide CPR certification, but it will teach life-saving skills for those who do not need a certification for their jobs. It's for anyone who wants to be better equipped to handle CPR and choking emergencies.

Shovel It! Adopt A Fire Hydrant

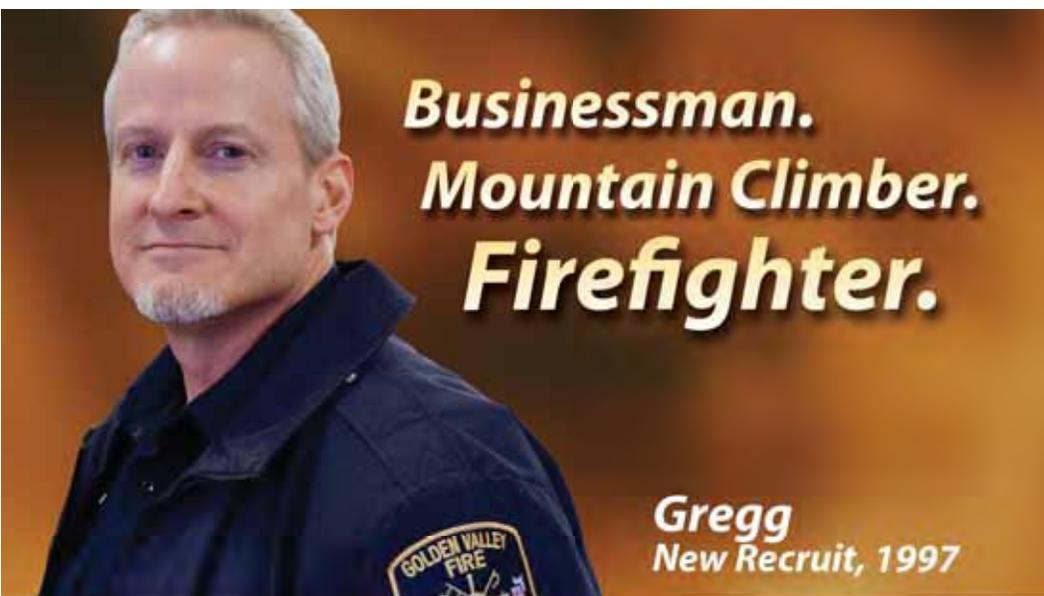
Help make this winter a little better and a lot safer for your neighbors and your community by adopting a fire hydrant. As snow accumulates throughout the season, fire hydrants get buried, creating problems for firefighters.

When something is burning, stopping to dig out a hydrant wastes crucial time.

That's why the Golden Valley Fire Department is seeking help to keep the fire hydrants in your neighborhood clear of snow. A six-foot clear space around the circumference of the hydrant will help reduce the time it takes firefighters to hook up hoses if a fire occurs in your neighborhood.

The best time to shovel out a hydrant is after the streets are plowed, before snow accumulates and freezes.

So please pick a hydrant, grab a shovel, and help.



**Businessman.
Mountain Climber.
Firefighter.**

Gregg
New Recruit, 1997

goldenvalleyfire.com

AT THE TIME HE SIGNED UP TO BE an on-call firefighter, Gregg Prest had three young children and some doubts. As the years went by, those doubts vanished. "It was probably one of the best decisions I've made for what I've done with my life," he says.

A small business owner and an occasional mountain climber, Prest is no stranger to adventurous living. But becoming a firefighter, he says, was just a straight-forward practical choice. Looking back, he's glad he confronted his initial doubts.

"The Fire Department introduced me to a circle of friends I wouldn't have met otherwise, and the physical elements have kept me sharp," he explains. "It forced me to stay fit and young."

ORDINANCES TO KNOW AND FOLLOW

Minnesota winters can be challenging. Where do I put all the snow? Where do I park the car? Knowing these two ordinances will help.



SNOW REMOVAL FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY

Removal of snow and ice from private property to a roadway, across a roadway, or onto a sidewalk or adjacent property is prohibited by City

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

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

PARKING ON PUBLIC STREETS

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

After a snowfall of at least two inches, vehicles in violation are cited by patrolling police. Vehicles found to be obstructing traffic or snow plows, and those still in violation after 24 hours, may be towed.

This winter, stay informed of weather forecasts and move your vehicle from the streets whenever snow is in the forecast.

Sign up for Golden Valley snow emergency email alerts at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe/.

IMPORTANT DE-ICING TIPS

De-icing sidewalks and driveways helps make your property safer, but it's important to do it properly. See the sidebar on page 13 for important tips.

Winter Safety Starts With Maintenance, Awareness

With the first winter storms fast approaching, the challenges of keeping streets safe despite ice, snow, blizzards, and whatever else the season throws at us lies with Golden Valley's Public Works Department.

CLEARING THE STREETS

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

To keep traffic moving, crews first plow collector and arterial streets that connect neighborhoods to State and County roads. Plowing stops if strong winds and drifting cause unsafe conditions; it resumes when conditions improve.

The City calls a snow emergency after snow accumulates to two inches or more. However, an accumulation of consecutive snowfall events of less than two inches may constitute initiation of plowing.

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

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

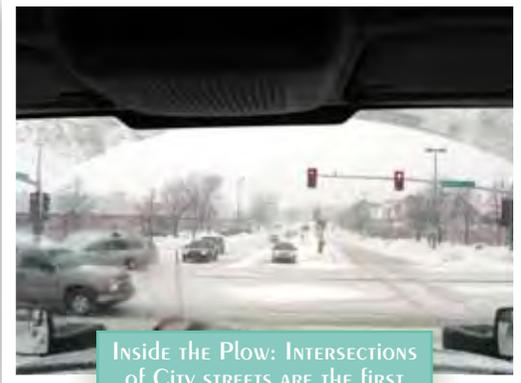
Plow Safety

Efficient, effective snow removal requires public cooperation. For example:

- Reduce speed and keep a minimum distance of 50 feet from snowplows and sand trucks (frequent backing is necessary, and rear visibility is very limited).
- Never drive into a snow cloud or pass vehicles while they're plowing.
- Stay away from the end of a driveway when a snowplow is approaching.
- Keep sleds and toys away from the street when they're not being used.
- Never build snow forts or snow sculptures in the snow piles on the boulevard.
- Keep garbage cans and recycling carts in the driveway and off roadways and sidewalks if it snows on collection days.
- Listen to weather forecasts so you're not in transit when a storm hits. The resulting traffic jams make plowing difficult. Plan ahead and choose alternate routes.

Plow Damage

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



INSIDE THE PLOW: INTERSECTIONS OF CITY STREETS ARE THE FIRST PRIORITY FOR PLOW DRIVERS.

City's PMP Completes 1.1 Miles In 2011

In 2011, Golden Valley rehabilitated 1.1 miles of local streets and utilities as part of its ongoing Pavement Management Program (PMP). The project focused on streets in the Lawn Terrace area of Golden Valley, which is between Hwy 100 and Turner's Crossroad and I-394 and Glenwood Ave.

Northwest Asphalt, the City's contractor for the project, finished paving and placing sod in all 2011 construction areas this fall. Streets were reconstructed to City standards, including concrete curb and gutter. The project also addressed necessary repairs to the storm sewer, water mains, and sanitary sewer mains.

2012 PMP

The 2012 PMP will include:

- Turner's Crossroad between I-394 and Circle Down
- Circle Down north of I-394 and east of Turner's Crossroad
- King Hill Rd and King Creek Rd south of Glenwood Ave
- Welcome Ave, Welcome Circle, and Phoenix St south of Golden Valley Rd and west of Hwy 100
- Harold Ave between Glenwood Ave and Winnetka Ave

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

The 2012 PMP project was designed at the same time as the 2011 PMP, and a public hearing for both projects was held Nov 16, 2010.

The City will bid the 2012 PMP in January 2012. Work is expected to start in spring 2012.

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

TURNPIKE Rd WAS ONE OF THE STREETS REHABILITATED DURING THE 2011 PMP.



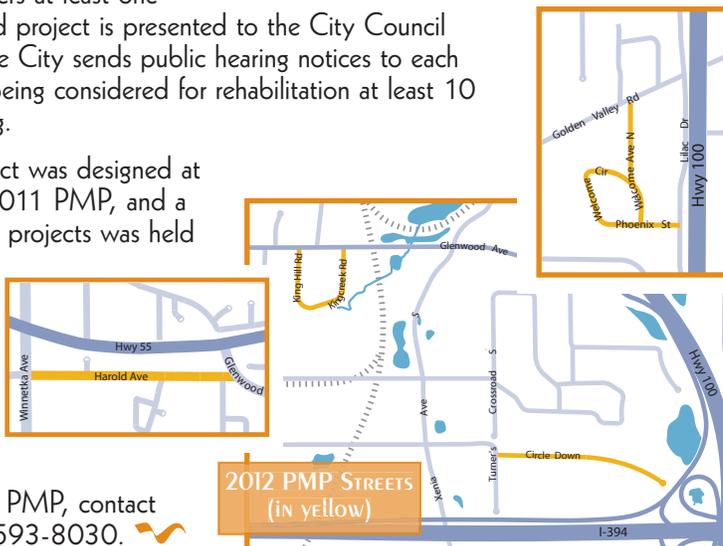
April 2011



JUNE 2011



OCTOBER 2011



2012 PMP STREETS (in yellow)

CAREFUL USE OF DE-ICERS PROTECTS LOCAL WATERS

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

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

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE

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

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

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

Prepare Your Vehicle

Cold weather tests the limits of your vehicle's mechanical abilities, so be prepared.

- Take care of nagging service problems or get a regular tune-up before winter.** If your car breaks down in warm weather, it's relatively easy to walk somewhere or wait in the vehicle until help arrives. But when temperatures are below freezing and it is snowing, it's an entirely different story.
- Properly inflate tires and check the tread** to be sure you have enough traction for winter driving.
- Make sure wipers are in good shape** to clear snow, ice, and roadway spray from your windshield.
- Keep the windshield washer fluid reservoir full.** Keep a bottle of fluid in your trunk and another in your garage.
- Check that the rear defroster is working properly.**
- Clear snow off your car completely** to keep it from sliding off the roof onto your windshield or flying onto someone else's windshield while on the road.
- Clean headlights and tail lights,** even if you think they don't need it. With the additional salt, sand, snow, and spray on the road, they may be dirtier than you think.
- If you like to **warm up your vehicle,** do so just long enough to take the chill off and conserve gasoline. Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed space, and never leave a running vehicle unattended.

Must-Have Winter Items For Your Vehicle

- Ice scraper and snow brush
- Jumper cables
- Bag of sand
- Shovel
- Warm boots/shoes
- Medications/food for longer trips
- Hat and mittens
- Blanket
- Windshield washer fluid
- Charged cell phone
- Water



Winter Driving: A Practical Approach

Although winter does not officially begin until Dec 22, Minnesotans know all bets are off by around Halloween. The snow, cold, ice, and fewer hours of sunlight that come with winter present a number of challenges to both you and your vehicle. Here are some practical tips to keep in mind as the winter driving season approaches.

- Plan your trip to allow for extra time due to weather delays and slower speeds.
- Wear your seat belt! It's the law in all seasons.
- Be patient and drive slowly. Everything takes longer on snow-covered roads. Accelerating, stopping, turning—nothing happens as quickly as on dry pavement.
- Keep extra distance between you and the car in front of you to allow enough room to stop.
- If possible, don't stop when driving up a hill. There's nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill on an icy road. Get some momentum going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill. Proceed downhill as slowly as possible.
- Monitor weather reports and alternative routes.
- Do not travel alone when possible, and let someone know your route and arrival time.
- If you become snow-bound, stay with your vehicle. It provides temporary shelter and makes it easier for rescuers to locate you. Don't try to walk in a severe storm. It's easy to lose sight of your vehicle in blowing snow and become lost.
- Stay home if road conditions are poor. If you really don't have to go out, don't. Even if you can drive well in the snow, not everyone else can. Don't tempt fate: If you don't have somewhere you have to be, watch the snow from indoors.
- Know your vehicle—front wheel drive, anti-lock brakes, stability control, etc—and know the best way to accelerate and decelerate under different roadway conditions.
- Do not use cruise control on slippery surfaces.
- Accelerate and decelerate gradually.
- Watch for ice on bridges, shaded areas, and low points.
- Use signals and brake lights more deliberately to communicate your intentions to other drivers. ❧

Steps For Safer Holiday Driving



Thanksgiving to New Year's is one of the deadliest times of year for alcohol-related crashes. MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) estimates that drunk driving crashes over the holidays kill more than 1,000 people nationally each year. Celebrate this season sensibly and safely.

- If you drink, don't drive, no matter how little you think you have had.
- Designate a driver before you arrive at an event or party.
- If hosting a party, set rules on drinking and driving. Offer to provide rides home or a place to sleep for guests who've been drinking.
- If possible, avoid driving during early and late evening hours on major holidays. Always wear a safety belt.
- Wear a red ribbon during the holidays to increase awareness of the drinking and driving problem. ❧

Resources: AAA and CarTalk.com

This Winter, Watch Out For Ice Dams

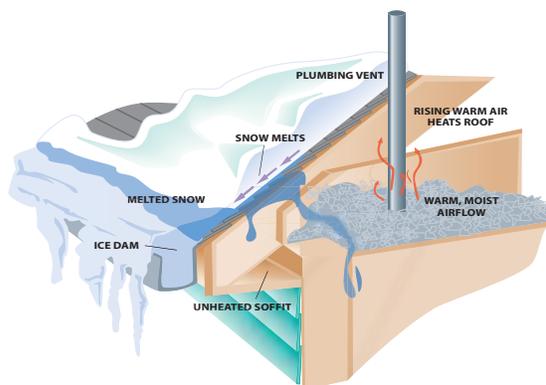
Last year, snow piled up in record amounts, culminating in a number of damaging and sometimes dangerous ice dams on roofs throughout Golden Valley. If this winter is even half as tough, expect to see more.

Ice dams form on roofs when the heat of an inadequately insulated attic causes snow to melt and trickle toward the edges of the roof.

There, because the attic heat does not affect the soffit near the gutters, the water refreezes and ice slowly accumulates. After an ice dam forms, subsequent melted water pools at the dam, backs up, and sometimes leaks through the roof, soffits, and gutters, creating dangerous icicles and inner-wall damage.

Snow accumulation on a roof acts as an insulator for the attic below, contributing to the initial melting. This, combined with below-average temperatures, leads to ripe conditions for ice dams and headaches for homeowners.

If you see a large build up of ice at the edge of your roof with snow melting above it, if your gutters are beginning to look weighed down by ice, or if icicles are forming on the undersides of the eaves, you may have ice dams.



Minnesota Department of Commerce

WHAT TO DO

The removal of ice dams is a tricky and often hazardous job, says Roger McCabe, Golden Valley community standards inspector. Once you are on a roof, it's easy to fall. The ladder may slip out from under you. The icicles may drop. The entire ice and snow build-up may slough off the roof in one swift motion, taking with it anyone in its path.

McCabe advises hiring a professional. There are people who clear ice dams for a living. They have the right tools to fix the problem and know how to take proper safety measures.

Weatherization contractors may be listed under "Energy Management and Conservation Consultants" or "Insulation Contractors" in the Yellow Pages. Be sure to get multiple quotes, McCabe says, and ask for proof of license and insurance.



HOW TO PREVENT ICE DAMS

If the primary cause of ice dams is warm air leaking from the house into the attic, the key to preventing ice dams is to replace or increase the attic insulation, improve attic ventilation, and seal any air leakage paths between the house and attic, says McCabe. Anywhere there is a penetration into the attic space around plumbing pipes, light fixtures, wiring clamps, and poorly insulated attic heat ducts, there are potential air leaks. These preventive measures are best done in the summer.

For more information on ice dams, visit the University of Minnesota Extension website at www.extension.umn.edu and type "ice dams" in the search engine.

Warm Up Your Winter By Planning For Spring

You'll save yourself a lot of headaches later if you start thinking about spring home improvement projects now. Poor planning could delay your project by a month or more as you wait for permits to process or for rushed projects to be redone.

How Many Permits Will My Project Require?

The number of permits and the 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 the work progresses.

How Long Is My Permit Valid?

Every permit issued will become invalid unless the work authorized begins within 180 day of issuance, or if the work is suspended or abandoned for a period of 180 days after the time the work starts. 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 the City for your final inspection to close out your permit.

Electrical Permits Now Issued Through The City

New this year, people can visit the Inspections Department in City Hall to get permits for electrical projects instead of going through the State of Minnesota. The City began issuing electrical permits during the summer.

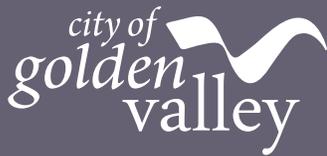
For more information on getting permits, call the Golden Valley Inspections Department at 763-593-8090.

Home Remodeling Fair Is Feb 26

Don't forget about the Home Remodeling Fair, Feb 26, 2012, which can help you prepare for all of your remodeling and home improvement projects.

Find more information at www.homeremodelingfair.com.





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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DONATE TOYS UNTIL DEC 19

In tough economic times, holiday gift shopping may not be a priority by necessity, not choice. Toys for Tots is there to help, and for 16 years the Golden Valley Police Department has (GVPD) led regional law enforcement agencies in a unique approach to the *Toys for Tots* donation effort.

It starts with a toy collection at the GVPD. On the last collection day, police from as many as 20 departments load their cruisers with donated gifts and meet at the GVPD. Then, lights blazing and sirens blaring, they parade to the KARE 11 *Toys for Tots* drop-off site. In past years the effort garnered thousands of toys.

If you want to help, bring new, unwrapped toys to the GVPD at 7800 Golden Valley Road (open 24 hours a day) between Nov 28 and Dec 19 (at 3 pm). Don't forget gifts for older kids and teens. For more information, contact Sgt Steve Johnson at 763-512-2505.

Crime Prevention Fund Enhances Safety In GV

Golden Valley is a safe place with a strong sense of community. The crime rate is low (see page 10), and your chances of being a victim of crime are very small. This is due, in no small part, to the Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund and its partnership with the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD).

The Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund is a private, nonprofit organization run by citizen volunteers and supported by businesses and residents who understand that safety and security are critical factors in thriving communities. It provides important financial support for many GVPD crime prevention initiatives, including:

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

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



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www.goldenvalleymn.gov

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