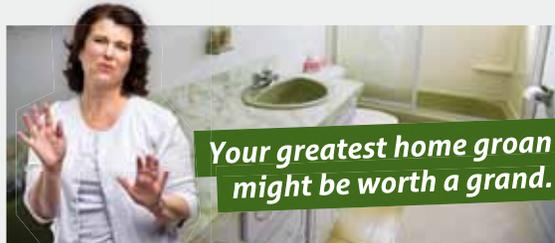


# Golden Valley

## CityNEWS

### Home Remodeling Fair Features \$1,000 Contest

Do you have the baddest bathroom in the west metro? The cruddiest kitchen in the county? The 2012 West Metro Home Remodeling Fair (HRF) is looking for ugly rooms that need to be rescued.



To celebrate its 20th anniversary, the HRF is sponsoring "Operation Rescue Room," a contest to put \$1,000 in the hands of the homeowner whose room is voted most in need of help by visitors to this year's fair.

**OPERATION:  
RESCUE ROOM**

To enter, contestants must submit one photo of their room along with a 100-word description of the intended project. Complete rules and entry forms are available at [www.HomeRemodelingFair.com/Rescue](http://www.HomeRemodelingFair.com/Rescue) or by calling City Planner Joe Hogeboom at 763-593-8099. Entry deadline is Feb 17, 2012.

Judging will take place at the HRF Sunday, Feb 26. Contestants must be present to win.

If you're looking to spruce up your home, the HRF features a variety of exhibitors, seminars, and even experts on hand to give you advice about your project (see page 16). If you're looking for some fun, stop by to vote for your favorite ugly room. Did we mention that it's all free?

For more information, go to [www.homeremodeling-fair.com](http://www.homeremodeling-fair.com) or contact Golden Valley's city planner at 763-593-8099. 



### State of the City Is March 23

The Golden Valley City Council will present its 2012 State of the City Community Update March 20, at 6:30 pm and March 23, at 7:30 am in the City Hall Council Chambers. All members of the community are invited to attend.

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

The annual State of the City reports the City's accomplishments of the past year and previews goals for the coming year.

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

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## COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SEEKS SUPPORT

Are your philanthropic juices flowing?  
Looking for a local outlet?

The Golden Valley Community Foundation (GVCF) is a citizen-led, nonprofit public charity founded in 2011 that financially supports initiatives that enhance quality of life for the people of Golden Valley.

By bringing together the Golden Valley Human Services Fund (GVHSF), the Golden Valley Community Events Fund (GVCEF), and the Envision Connection Project, the GVCF makes it easier for community members to give to one organization while benefiting several.

The GVHSF is a City commission that raises funds to support human service organizations that help Golden Valley residents in a time of need or crisis. Since 1992, its *Run the Valley* (see page 3) and *Golden Valley Golf Classic* events have raised more than \$1,294,520 to support more than a dozen local organizations, including Crisis Nursery, Dinner At Your Door, and PRISM, to name a few.

The GVCEF was organized by Golden Valley residents in 2003 to bring back Golden Valley Days, a much-missed annual citywide celebration. It was also a force behind last year's Golden Valley 125th Anniversary activities.

The Envision Connection Project was founded in 2005 from the Envision Golden Valley process. It created the Golden Valley Bridge Builders group and launched citizen-inspired projects like the annual lilac planting project, volunteer day, and an expanded garden club.

The GVCF is an independent community foundation with its own board of directors. Executive officers include Dean Penk, Connie Sandler, Sharon Glover, and Luke Weisberg. At-large board members include Scott Grayson, Helene Johnson, Philip Lund, Diane Nimmer, DeDe Scanlon, and Blair Tremere.

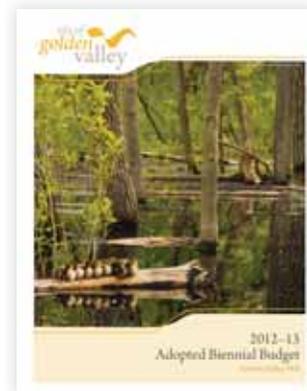
For more information or to donate, go to [www.GVCFoundation.org](http://www.GVCFoundation.org).

# City Sets 2013 Budget Calendar

The City budget is the financial plan for Golden Valley for the coming year. The City's General Fund covers the operating divisions that provide basic services, such as police and fire service, street and park maintenance, planning, and zoning, to name a few. Preparation of a City budget is mandated by State statute.

The General Fund often gets the most attention because of its impact on the taxpayer. Other funds (Special Revenue, Capital Projects, Enterprise, etc) are also part of the City budget but have different funding sources.

The General Fund's main revenue source is property taxes. Before the final property tax levy is adopted, the City Council and staff hold many meetings to discuss the City's needs. These meetings are open to the public (see calendar below). Dates may change due to State legislation or City Council actions.



THE 2012 BUDGET WAS ADOPTED IN DECEMBER 2011.

## 2013 Budget Calendar

- ☞ **Jan 2, 2012:** Hennepin County sets the value of your property based on comparable properties in your city as of this date.
- ☞ **Early March, 2012:** Hennepin County mails property valuation notices to all property owners.
- ☞ **April 24, 2012:** Open Book Meeting, Golden Valley City Hall, 4-6 pm. Hennepin County assessors are available to answer questions about your property valuation notice.
- ☞ **May-June, 2012:** Staff prepares budgets, has internal meetings, and compiles the city manager's recommended budget for City Council to review.
- ☞ **July 3, 2012:** City Council receives proposed 2013 City Budget from city manager.
- ☞ **July 10, 2012:** City Council and staff discuss proposed 2013 City Budget at Council/Manager meeting.
- ☞ **Aug 13, 2012 (Monday):** City Council and staff discuss proposed 2013 City Budget at Council/Manager meeting.
- ☞ **Sept 4, 2012:** City Council approves proposed 2013 City Budget and tax levy. Once approved, this levy cannot be increased but can be decreased. The proposed levy will be used for proposed property tax statements sent out in November by Hennepin County.
- ☞ **Sept 11, 2012:** City Council and staff discuss proposed 2013 City Budget at Council/Manager meeting.
- ☞ **Oct 9, 2012:** City Council and staff discuss proposed 2013 City Budget at Council/Manager meeting.
- ☞ **Nov 13, 2012:** City Council and staff discuss proposed 2013 City Budget at Council/Manager meeting.
- ☞ **Mid-Nov 2012:** Proposed property tax notices sent by County to all property owners in the City, part of the State's Truth in Taxation regulations.
- ☞ **Dec 4, 2012:** Truth in Taxation public hearing(s) on 2013 General Fund Budget and tax levy. City Council adopts 2013 General Fund Budget, 2013 Tax Levy, and Budgets of the Enterprise and Other Funds. The 2013-2017 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) will be adopted.

Questions? Contact Finance Director Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010.

# New Location And Time For Run The Valley

The 18th annual *Run the Valley*, sponsored by the Golden Valley Human Services Fund, is set for April 14, 2012. Plan now to join friends and neighbors for this 10K race and 5K run and walk that raises funds for organizations that benefit the community (see sidebar).

The certified course runs through residential Golden Valley—water stops and post-race complimentary snacks are provided. The first 650 participants will receive a long-sleeve T-shirt. Medallions are awarded to the top three finishers overall and the top finisher in each age group.

## REGISTER EARLY - SAVE \$5

Entry fee is \$25 through Feb 29, \$30 March 1–April 13 (by 3 pm), and \$40 on race day.

- **Register online** at [www.zapevent.com](http://www.zapevent.com) and [www.active.com](http://www.active.com)
- Download form from City website and **submit by mail** with payment to 200 Brookview Parkway, 55426 or **by fax** (763-512-2344).
- Over the **phone** (763-512-2345)
- **In person** at Brookview Community Center
- **On race day**, from 7–7:45 am at Brookview Community Center.

## LAST YEAR'S EVENT

In 2011, *Run the Valley* drew 683 runners and walkers and raised \$19,657.

Last year's corporate sponsors were Liberty Carton Company, Lupient Enterprises and Solbrekk Business Technology Solutions. Other sponsors included Al's Coffee, Chiquita Banana, Channel 12/NWCT, City of Golden Valley, Einstein Bros Bagels, Go Health Chiropractic, Finken Great Glacier Water, Old Fashioned Donut Shoppe, Road ID, Valley Pastries, and Yoplait USA.

Find out more at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/runthevalley/](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/runthevalley/), or call Park and Recreation at 763-512-2345.

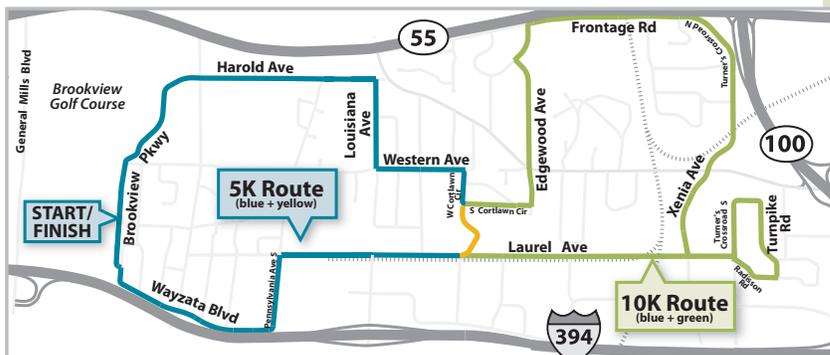


## RUN THE VALLEY 2012

**Saturday, April 14**

- 8 am for 5K run
- 8:10 am for the 10K run
- 8:15 am for the 5K walk

Start and finish at Brookview Community Center, 200 Brookview Parkway (south of Hwy 55 and west of Winnetka Ave on Brookview Parkway). See route map below.



# GVHSF Supports Community



Since 1992, the Golden Valley Human Services Fund (GVHSF) has worked to support organizations that serve Golden Valley residents, providing \$1,294,520 in funding. Each year, this board of citizen volunteers reviews funding requests and allocates funds raised by the GVHSF through various annual fundraisers, such as April's *Run the Valley* and July's *Golden Valley Golf Classic*. The Foundation also receives 10 percent of the pull tab monies collected in the City.

For 2012, the Golden Valley Human Services Fund allocated \$45,000 to 10 local human service organizations: Community Mediation Services (\$1,500), Crisis Connection (\$2,000), Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery (\$5,000), Home Free (\$2,500), Jewish Family & Children's Services (\$3,500), Northwest Suburban Dinner at Your Door (\$7,000), PRISM (\$10,000), Senior Community Services HOME Program (\$5,000), Senior Community Services Outreach (\$3,500), and Tree House (\$5,000).

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

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

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

## DON'T WANT YOUR Old RECYCLING BIN?

Now that "New Blue" is in town (see story at right), what does a person do with the old recycling bins?

If you want to keep them, they're yours. Use them for storing or hauling, or give them



to someone else who wants them. If that doesn't work for you, bring them to the City's drop-off site under the water tower next to Golden Valley City Hall. Pallets are set up for stacking old recycling bins.

The City will recycle the old bins, so they'll be discarded in an environmentally friendly manner.

If you could use a few extra bins for storage or whatever, stop by the drop-off site under the water tower and take what you need.

Questions? Call Public Works at 763-593-8030. 🐾

# "New Blue" Makes Its Golden Valley Debut

The world of Golden Valley curbside recycling shifted Jan 1 when New Blue took to the streets. The sleek 68-gallon recycling cart, styling wheels and a lid, replaced the City's old recycling bins as part of an improved program that features added convenience and potential cost savings.

## A Quick Review...

What makes it more convenient? The wheels make it easier to get the recycling to the curb. The lid keeps everything inside the cart. Plus, no sorting is required, more recyclables are collected, and there are new special recycling services, such as fee-based curbside pick-up of electronics and appliances (see page 5).

Another highlight is every-other-week service, which means less wear and tear on the City's streets. Pick-up is every other Friday instead of every Friday, with approximately two-thirds of the City serviced one week and the other one-third serviced on the alternating week. The new hauler, Allied Waste, sent mailers out in November with service schedules. First collection dates were Jan 6 for the blue service area and Jan 13 for the gray area. If you don't know which area you're in, check the City website at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recycling/curbside](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recycling/curbside), or contact Allied Waste at 952-941-5174.



THE FIRST PICK-UP DAY OF THE NEW PROGRAM WENT SMOOTHLY.

To save money, the City continues to contract jointly for recycling services with the Cities of Plymouth and Minnetonka. Allied Waste proposed a contract that 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.

The recycling fee posted to your quarterly City utility bill will remain the same. This amount 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.

## ...AND A FEW HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

On collection day, have your recycling cart at the curb by 6:30 am. Make sure cart handles and wheels face away from the street and that carts are placed 3–5 feet away from other objects (trash containers, mail boxes, cars, trees, bushes, etc).

Place all items, including cardboard, loose in the cart. If you collect paper or other recyclables in bags, leave the bag open when placing it in the cart.

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). Containers may be placed at the curb from 5 pm the day before collection to 9 pm the day of collection

Need a larger or smaller cart? Call Allied Waste at 952-941-5174. If the larger cart is still not enough, request an additional cart. 🐾

## Golden Valley Recycles

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

### GRAY Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Memorial Day	Sat, June 2
Labor Day	Sat, Sept 8
Christmas	Sat, Dec 29

### BLUE Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
July 4	Sat, July 7
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 24
New Year's 2013	Sat, Jan 5

### MISSED Pick Ups

If your recycling is missed on Friday, call Allied Waste at 952-941-5174 before noon on the following Monday.

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

# Get In The Recycling Mood, Room By Room

The City's improved recycling program provides the opportunity to recycle more items than ever before. Here's a room-by-room guide to get you in the mood (this is by no means a complete list).

## kitchen



Aluminum food & beverage cans



Glass food & beverage jars



Plastic trays such as those for microwave dinners



Water, juice, and soda bottles (with caps on)



Cardboard containers (except those that go in the freezer, such as waffle boxes)



Clear plastic clam-shell containers like those for fruit, bakery goods

PLUS Plastics galore, such as:

- coffee creamer, chocolate syrup, ketchup, and mustard bottles
- mayonnaise and peanut butter jars
- milk jugs
- honey, vegetable oil, syrup, and pancake mix bottles
- yogurt, sour cream, cottage cheese, cool-whip, and butter tubs

## bathroom



Plastic bottles from shampoo/conditioner, soap, lotion, etc



Plastic prescription drug containers (properly dispose of any unused medicine)



Plastic baby wipe containers



Bathroom boxboard and empty toilet paper rolls

## on the go



Plastic soda cups, to-go containers and carry-out bags (clean with no food or grease residue)



Plastic retail bags

## laundry room



Plastic cat litter jugs



Cardboard boxes



Plastic containers from laundry and household cleaning supplies (not the sprayer on bottles)

## living room



Newspaper



Paper (school, office, shredded mail, magazines, greeting cards)

Not sure if a specific item can be recycled? Call Allied Waste at 952-941-5174.

## the Basics...

- **Plastic:** Look for a number in the triangle on the bottom. If the number is between 1 and 7, recycle it (caps too).
- **Cardboard:** If the container is not intended to go in the freezer, recycle it. This includes paper milk and juice cartons.
- **Glass or Metal:** If it held a household item, recycle it.

Make sure all items are clean and free of residue.

## Now Recycling: Appliances & Electronics

One advantage of a new program is the potential to expand it to better serve customers. Golden Valley's new curbside recycling program makes it possible, for a fee, to recycle appliances and electronics by scheduling a pick-up and placing the items at the curb.

### ACCEPTED ITEMS

Some of the items accepted include:

- refrigerators, stoves, dehumidifiers, microwaves, washers, and dryers
- snow blowers, lawn mowers
- TVs, VCRs, computers, computer monitors, cell phones, telephones

### Scheduling A Pick-Up

Pick-ups must be scheduled in advance by calling Allied Waste at 952-941-5174. Allied Waste will determine your fee when you call. Place items at the curb separate from your recycling cart, as they go through a different recycling process than the standard recyclables.

For more information about what items are accepted and the fees for pickup and disposal, contact Allied Waste at 952-941-5174.

### OTHER RECYCLING OPTIONS

Hennepin County's two drop-off sites (8100 Jefferson Hwy, Brooklyn Park and 1400 W 96th St, Bloomington) also accept appliances and recyclables, but they do not provide pick-up services. Fees may apply. For more information, call 612-348-3777 or visit [www.hennepin.us/drop-offs](http://www.hennepin.us/drop-offs).

## Recreation Opportunities

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

### Youth Programs

**Preschool Playtime** (ages 1–5 with adult)—Fridays, 10–11:30 am through March 23, Brookview Community Center. \$3/time/child or \$25 for a 10-time punch pass.

**First Steps in Musicland** (ages 18 months–5 years)—Thur, Feb 16–March 22, 11:15–noon, Brookview Community Center. \$45/resident.

**Little Tigers Self Defense** (ages 3–6)—Tue, Feb 21–March 27, 5:45–6:15 pm, Davis Community Center. \$49/resident.

**Kids' Club** (ages 3–5)—Mon/Wed, Feb 27–April 4 or Tue/Thur, Feb 21–March 29, 9:30–11 am, Brookview Community Center. \$44/resident.

**Indoor Nerf Soccer** (ages 5–7)—Thur, Apr 12–May 17, 6 or 7 pm (depending on game schedule), Davis Community Center. \$34/resident.

### Adult Programs

**Daytime Yoga With Annette**—Tue, Feb 7–March 27, 11 am–noon, Brookview Community Center. \$56/resident, \$61/non-resident.

**Yoga Flow With Laura**—Tue, Feb 14–March 20, 5:30–6:40 pm, Brookview Community Center. \$60/resident, \$65/non-resident.

**Drawing Exploration**—Thur, Feb 9 & 16, 1–2:30 pm, Brookview Community Center. \$40/resident, \$45/non-resident.

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

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**



# Host Your 2012 Parties At City Venues

As 2012 rolls in, it's time to start planning your parties for the oncoming year. And the pleasant, cost-effective venues at Brookview Community Center and Brookview Park offer a great setting for any of your gatherings.

## Brookview Community Center

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

For parties and social events with more than 75 people, fees come as low as \$560 for up to 12 hours of use, including set-up/takedown and clean-up. For events with fewer than 75 people, fees range from \$25–\$35 per hour for up to five hours of use plus a \$25–\$35 set-up/takedown fee and a \$60 clean-up fee. All parties must pay a refundable policy compliance/damage deposit.

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

## RESERVE NOW

To reserve facilities at Brookview Community Center or Brookview Park, call the Park and Recreation office (763-512-2345) Monday through Friday, 8 am–4:30 pm.

**A \$100 refundable deposit is payable at time of reservation.** For more information, visit [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation).

## Park Picnic Shelters

The picnic shelters at Brookview Park (southwest corner of Hwy 55 and Winnetka) are available mid-April through the first week of October, from either 11 am to 4 pm or 5 pm to dusk. Both shelters are easy walking distance to the playgrounds and sand volleyball courts. Brookview Park's total capacity is 300.

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

The small shelter at the north end of the park has a parking lot, 10 picnic tables for 50 people, four charcoal grills, and six electrical outlets. Fee: \$85 resident, \$100 non-resident. A permit is required to consume beer or wine. The \$20 fee is payable at the time of reservation. A play equipment kit may be rented for \$15, plus a \$30 refundable deposit, for 72 hours.

Golden Valley residents, businesses, churches, or organizations may reserve picnic shelters now, and beginning Feb 9, anyone outside of Golden Valley may make reservations. Residents may not reserve shelters for outside groups or individuals.



# Mark Your Calendars For 2012 GV Events



Start off Golden Valley's 126th year right by getting out your smart phones, day planners, and desktop calendars and planning to participate in these special Golden Valley events.

For additional details on times and places of specific events, monitor upcoming issues of *CityNews* or the community calendar at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/calendar](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/calendar). Details about the City's *Concert in the Park* series, held most summer Mondays at 7 pm in Brookview Park, will be published in the March/April *CityNews*.

For information about volunteering to help with community events, contact Sandy Werts at 763-512-2341 or [swerts@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:swerts@goldenvalleymn.gov).

## 2012 GOLDEN VALLEY EVENTS

### FEBRUARY

**Feb 26** - West Metro Home Remodeling Fair  
*Get free remodeling advice from the pros, win prizes, and more. Free event. See page 16 for details.*

### MARCH

**March 15** - Caring Youth Recognition  
*Celebrate the contributions of young people in our area who positively affect our communities.*

**March 22** - *Why Do Cops Have To Use Force?* GVPDU Class.  
*More details on page 10.*

### APRIL

**April 14** - Run The Valley Walk/Run  
*18th annual 5K/10K walk/run to support the Golden Valley Human Services Fund. See page 3 for details.*

**April 23** - Step To It Challenge  
*Count your steps during this four-week challenge and help Golden Valley compete against other metro cities.*

### MAY

**May 2** - Bike Rodeo  
*Free bicycle safety check and riding skills test. Enjoy special treats and register to win terrific prizes.*

**May TBA** - Golden Valley Days  
*Golden Valley's annual festival. More at [www.goldenvalleyfund.org](http://www.goldenvalleyfund.org).*

### JUNE

**June 6** - Views of the Valley Photo Contest deadline

**June 20** - Fire/Police Open House

**June 23** - Fire Relief Association Street Dance

**June 11** - Concerts In The Park begin—*Mondays through July*

**June 24** - Market In The Valley opens—*Sundays through Oct 7*

**June 26** - Safety Camp  
*Sign up your child now! Contact Park and Recreation at 763-512-2345.*

### JULY

**July 16** - Concert In The Park & Bridge Builders' Ice Cream Social

### AUGUST

**Aug 7** - Minnesota's Night To Unite  
*Fight crime by getting to know your neighbors.*

### OCTOBER

**Oct TBD** - Lilac Planting Party  
*5th annual planting to help beautify Hwy 55 in Golden Valley.*

### NOV

**Nov 6** - Election Day

## Senior Stuff

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

### NAVIGATING MEDICARE

Thinking about retirement? Already have Medicare and just want to know what is going on? Learn about Medicare Parts A, B, and D coverages. The class is educational and not a sales pitch; it is offered in cooperation with the non-profit Senior Community Services.

Feb 13, 6:30—8:30 pm. \$10 includes instructor fee, class materials, and refreshments. Couples may share materials and pay only one fee. Register or cancel by Feb 6. Min: 6/Max: 30.

### TAX ASSISTANCE 2012

If you have uncomplicated income taxes, get free help filling out income tax forms from AARP volunteers. First-come, first-served. Bring all information, including your labeled tax forms, property tax information, and direct deposit information (if applicable). Tax forms are filed electronically. Volunteers attend training but are not professional tax accountants.

@Golden Valley Library: Thursdays, Feb 2, 9, 16, 23, March 1, 8, 15, 10:30 am—1:30 pm. Register at the door starting at 10 am.

@Brookview Community Center: Thursdays, March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 9 am—noon. Register at the door starting at 8:15 am.

### Tai Chi For Health & ARTHRITIS

This series of gentle, yet powerful, easy-to-learn movements promote effective physical and mental well-being. Great for joint pain relief and fall prevention. Taught by Certified Instructor Marie Mathay, endorsed by the Arthritis Foundation worldwide. Wear comfy clothes.

Tuesdays, February 28—April 10.  
Basic Class: 8:30—9:40 am, Level 2: 9:45—10:45 am. \$42/resident, \$47/non-resident (7 classes).

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

8 am—4:30 pm, Monday—Friday

For the latest details on these events, visit [www.goldenvalleymn.gov](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov).

BELOW: Director of Planning & Development Mark Grimes (left) and City Planner Joe Hogeboom weigh many factors in planning for Golden Valley's future.

# Parcels, Predictions, Projects, & Permits:

*Planning Development For A Developed City*



**G**olden Valley is a compact and highly developed city, so when planners look to the future, they must look years, sometimes decades ahead.

"The biggest challenge for redevelopment in a city like this is the immediate impact on nearby residents and businesses," says Mark Grimes, City director of planning and development. "Residents are close to almost every development we have."

Furthermore, the environmental impacts of development are more regulated now than they used to be, requiring that water quality and erosion prevention standards be met for any project.

When you're planning for redevelopment five, 10, or 20 years out, it's all about understanding the evolution of trends, says Joe Hogeboom, City planner. Population trends, environmental trends, transportation trends—it's all changing, and the community's needs and values change with them.

This is why redevelopment projects, from conception to execution, take as long as they do.

"The project that material-

izes almost never matches the original idea," Hogeboom says. "That's because over the years of planning, the trends shift, and the demands of the community change."

## A LONG-TERM APPROACH

Take land availability, for example. The City hopes to foster mixed use development along the I-394 corridor, meaning a mix of residential housing, businesses, and open space. But right now that land is not available to be redeveloped, so the City must rezone the area for mixed use so over time, as people and businesses move out and others move in, it slowly evolves into a mixed-use area.

"You have to look at the big picture," Hogeboom says. "Or you can get lost in the day-to-day minutiae of the development process."

Planners must also be wary of market quirks, Grimes says. Sometimes it will look like a new trend is emerging, but it turns out it's a fad. This means the City Council and staff must know when to stick to their guns and not be persuaded by temporary trend shifts.

## CHALLENGES BEGET CHALLENGES

Beyond the cost of construction, permits, rezoning, and initial planning, each redevelopment project brings a bundle of collateral challenges. For example, if a multi-unit housing project goes into development, planners have to prepare for heavier traffic in the area and greater sewage use, requiring road reconstruction and sewer line replacements. And each one of these

*"We want to create a balanced community and it's a tight rope that we walk."*



projects requires its own environmental impact reports, permits, public input meetings, etc.

“We want to create a balanced community and it’s a tight rope that we walk,” Hogeboom says. “We have a very healthy and busy community, and we need to make sure the people who live here now can feel comfortable while at the same time making sure the people who live here years or decades from now will also feel comfortable in a City that won’t stagnate.”

### WHAT RESIDENTS WANT

Residents, through surveys and public input meetings, express a desire to keep up with modern trends while preserving Golden Valley’s small town heritage and honoring its past. They want commercial development to take advantage of existing infrastructure along I-394 and Hwy 55 and convey the community’s identity, reinforce engagement and active living, and encourage small independent businesses.

They want development to be architecturally and environmentally appealing, include community gathering spots, and provide easy street, sidewalk, and trail access.

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

Golden Valley is the way it is right now because of choices planners made decades ago. Parts of Golden Valley are hardly recognizable from what they looked like in the 1970s, and there will likely be similar transformations over the next 30 years. Demographic change and shifts in societal trends will be analyzed and reanalyzed. Precedents will be studied, surveys taken, and while it’s never possible to predict the future perfectly, with enough effort, City planners can tip the odds in the community’s favor. 

## Resolving Development Challenges Takes Time



### GOLDEN VALLEY COMMONS

The idea for redeveloping the northeast corner of the Hwy 55/Winnetka Ave intersection began in 1979. The main goal was to stimulate economic development by creating a unified commercial and civic center. The site, which contained an aged strip mall, was ultimately cleared in the 1990s. At the same time, the City worked with the US Postal Service for several years to relocate the old post office from its site on Winnetka Ave to where it now shares the same block with Golden Valley Commons.

Public enhancements, such as the fountain and clock tower site, were made. Though it took time, the redevelopment proved to be a success and showcase for the community.



### WALGREENS

The new Walgreens store at 2500 Winnetka Ave took about two years to become a reality.

Developers for the store first contacted the City in 2009 to discuss planning and zoning requirements.

After they negotiated the land purchase, it was discovered that the site was actually part of four individual parcels of land. Correcting the problem meant Walgreens had to appear before the Planning Commission and the City Council and work with the Hennepin County Recorder’s Office.

Additionally, all businesses that have drive-through windows must obtain special permitting from the City to ensure public safety.

Finally, businesses located on County roads must work with the County to ensure adequate access to and from the site.



### FORMER DENNY’S SITE

Since the demolition of the former restaurant building at Hwy 55 and Douglas Dr several years ago, the site has sat vacant. Located in a busy part of Golden Valley, this site poses many challenges for development.

First, it’s relatively long and narrow, making it difficult to meet zoning requirements. Second, even though the site is highly visible from Hwy 55, it is somewhat difficult to access quickly, which would be necessary for a convenience store or other service retail.

The City is studying the site’s development potential and looking at what would be the best land use of that and the surrounding area. Because the site is located on both a State and a County roadway, it’s necessary to work collaboratively with other agencies.



## WHY DO COPS HAVE TO USE FORCE?

Thursday, March 22  
6-9 pm

Golden Valley Public Safety Building  
7800 Golden Valley Rd

Learn how police officers are trained in the use of force, including:

- Minnesota state statute covering deadly force
- taser use
- firearm training
- soft-hand compliance techniques
- impact weapons
- and much more

Classes will include verbal explanations, demonstrations, and discussion.

### Register Today

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

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

# Understanding Police Use-Of-Force Practices

In 2011, the number of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in the United States rose for the second consecutive year, with 177 fatalities, reports the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. This is 16 percent higher than 2010 and 42 percent higher than 2009.

In Minnesota, all licensed police officers are required to complete a minimum of 48 hours of continuing education credits every three years, according to standards set by the Police Officers Standards and Training Board. One of several mandated topic areas is use of force by officers.

### USE-OF-FORCE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

The Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) met that requirement in November 2011 by renting a facility specially designed for law enforcement training and conducting eight hours of use-of-force training for all sworn officers. This training included:

- weapon retention
- handcuffing
- searches
- firearm and long-gun proficiency in an outdoor climate and environment
- scenario-based training reflecting typical 911 call situations
- use of a video/laser simulator requiring decision-making to use force or not

Ongoing training in these areas is critically important for officers to remain proficient and ready to respond when situations arise requiring a decision to use force, says Police Chief Stacy Carlson.

Minnesota law authorizes use of deadly force only when necessary to:

- protect the peace officer or another from apparent death or great bodily harm
- arrest or capture, or prevent the escape, of a person whom the peace officer knows or has reasonable grounds to believe has committed or attempted to commit a felony involving the use or threatened use of deadly force, or if the officer believes that the person will cause death or great bodily harm if the person's apprehension is delayed

Police officers are trained to use the least amount of force necessary in a given situation in order to gain control over a subject, explains Carlson. Types of force can include verbal commands, soft-hand compliance techniques, impact weapons, less-lethal tools such as a taser, and firearms. There is no requirement for officers to use force in a sequential order from least to most serious. Every situation is different, as is every subject's physical tolerance for various compliance tools, and officers must assess each situation, taking all variables into consideration.

### LEARN MORE

To help the public better understand police use of force, the GVPD will hold a class in March (see sidebar) to clarify state law and explain and demonstrate how officers are trained. The class will feature a second session in the summer, where participants will have the opportunity to go through the same simulator police use when training for use of force.

"Police officers have to make split-second decisions in high-pressure situations," says Carlson. "While most situations don't involve using any force, there are times when officers have no choice. Golden Valley's police officers receive many hours of training in use of force, including tactics and hands-on simulation training." 

## Neighborhood Watch Meetings

The GVPD hosts annual Neighborhood Watch meetings by zone. New groups or groups that wish to meet on their own may hold individual meetings in addition to the annual meeting.

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

### Upcoming Meeting Dates

Zones	Meeting Date
8	Tuesday, February 21
6	Wednesday, March 7
5a	Tuesday, April 24
5b & 7	Wednesday, May 16



# Severe Weather: What You Need To Know

The Golden Valley Fire Department is offering a class in March on what you need to know about protecting yourself against severe weather. This storm spotter training course shows how to observe thunderstorms and covers some local severe weather climatology and basic severe weather meteorology.

“Skywarn: A Severe Weather Awareness Class” (see box at right for details) will be taught by Brad Winger, a certified National Weather Service Instructor with 21 years of experience spotting and chasing storms. Attendees will be certified weather spotters upon completion of the class.

One of the important things to know about severe weather is how to respond to the sirens, says Stephen Baker, fire education specialist.

“If you’re outside and you hear the sirens, seek shelter immediately,” he says.

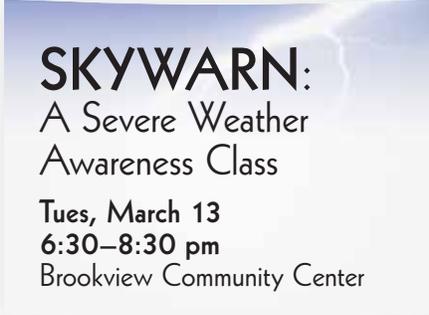
Even if it looks nice outside, severe weather can hit in a matter of seconds.

“You see people out at a softball game, they hear the sirens and don’t go anywhere,” Baker says. “But those sirens go off for a reason. If you hear it, severe weather is close.”

Just don’t run under the metal bleachers or a tree, Baker adds. Lightning kills more people in Minnesota than any other summer-weather threat. Get inside a structure. In the worst-case scenario, if a tornado is coming and you’re stuck in the open, find the lowest place close to you, like a ditch, and lay in it.

The sooner you react to the sirens, the better off you’re going to be. In fact, don’t wait until you hear sirens before you try to find a safe place. Make a habit of identifying safe places near you where you and your family could meet if severe weather hits. Even at home, identify a well-protected safe place inside your house, away from windows, that everyone in your family knows about.

Sign up for the Skywarn class with Golden Valley Park & Recreation at 763-512-2345. 



**SKYWARN:**  
A Severe Weather Awareness Class  
Tues, March 13  
6:30–8:30 pm  
Brookview Community Center

## Join Up. Give Back. Stand Out.

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

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

If you are 18 and live or work within six minutes of a Golden Valley fire station, you could become part of Golden Valley’s proud tradition of paid on-call firefighters. The box below lists key recruitment dates for 2012. 

### Golden Valley Firefighter Recruitment Expo

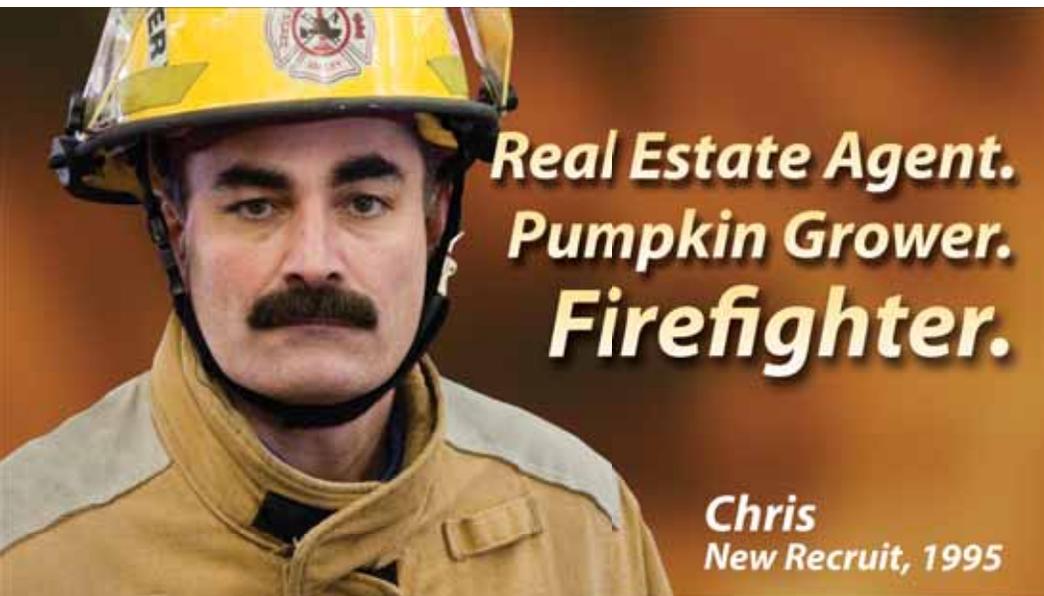
Thursday, June 14, 7–9 pm  
Fire Station 1, 7800 Golden Valley Rd

### Recruitment Meeting

Thursday, June 28, 9:30 am & 6:30 pm  
Fire Station 1, 7800 Golden Valley Rd

### Application Deadline

Monday, July 9, 4 pm



**Real Estate Agent.  
Pumpkin Grower.  
Firefighter.**

**Chris**  
New Recruit, 1995

**goldenvalleyfire.com**

YEARS AFTER JOINING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, Chris Gemlo was looking through some old homework from first grade and found a stick figure drawing of a firefighter next to the question, “what do you want to be when you grow up?”

“I had forgotten about that,” he says. Now a real estate agent by profession and a gardener and woodworker by hobby, Gemlo also participates annually in the Kelly Drive Pumpkin Festival. His childhood firefighter hopes resurfaced when he looked to get more involved in the community.

The more Gemlo looked into it, the more confident he got. “You don’t have to be the big burly guy to be a firefighter,” he says. Turns out, even a stick figure can do it.



## CITY REPAIRS NORTH TYROL PARK

A Golden Valley Park hit hard by a tornado last summer is on its way to recovery. The City has replaced the damaged playground equipment and is planning restoration efforts.

The tornado originated in St Louis Park and traveled through Golden Valley to north Minneapolis. Along the way, it destroyed the playground and took down the majority of mature shade trees in North Tyrol Park, says Al Lundstrom, park maintenance supervisor.

The loss of trees accelerated erosion issues on the park's hillside, so this winter, City crews added fill, regraded the hillside, and covered it with a hay mulch to control erosion. In spring, crews will work with a native plant landscaping company to seed and mulch the area to prevent further erosion and infiltration of noxious weeds such as thistles, garlic mustard, and buckthorn.

Depending on grant funding and other resources, the City hopes to replace as many of the downed trees as possible with a variety of species. A neighborhood volunteer group is interested in helping plant the trees, adds Lundstrom.



This diagram shows what trees could be planted to replace those downed last May.

# Prevent Drain Pain And Flushing Follies

What should go down the drain? What should go down the toilet? The answer to both questions: As little as possible.

## DRAIN PAIN

Food products are better off in the garbage than in the garbage disposal, says Dave Lemke, City utilities maintenance supervisor. The more solids that go down the drain, the more blockages that will occur, and the more money you'll have to spend unclogging. In fact, anything but water will contribute to clogs over time, even soap.

Pipes are like arteries. Grease and soap residue build up like plaque. If you've had a history of backups, a routine sewer cleaning is recommended. In any case, a sewer check-up once every two years doesn't hurt. Think of it as a seweroscopy.

So keep what you toss down the drain minimal, and always avoid putting grease and oils, paper products, lint and hair, medicines, and hazardous chemicals down the drains.

## FLUSHING FOLLIES

An even bigger problem is what people flush down their toilets, Lemke says.

When deciding what you should or should not flush (besides the obvious), the test comes down to one question. Is it toilet paper? If it isn't, throw it in a garbage can, recycling bin, or mulch pit. Tissues, paper towels, floss, any kind of cloth, gum, toothpaste, hair, ashtray dust, and cosmetic or feminine products all go in the garbage.

If you have to wonder whether or not something is flushable, it's not.

Toilet paper is the only material specifically made for flushing. Anything else clogs the sewer systems and leads to expensive repairs, time-consuming cleanings, and possible sewer back-ups.

## WHERE IT GOES

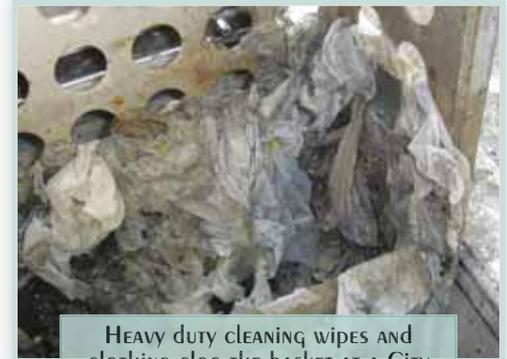
Everything flushed down a toilet or washed down a drain enters the City sewer system. The sewer pipes are connected to lift stations, which are strategically placed around the City to pump sewage to adjust to elevation changes.

To catch debris, the City installed baskets leading to the wet wells at sewer system lift stations. Workers can spend several hours a day checking the pumps and fishing problem items out of the system, and they empty the baskets at least three times a week. Among the strange things they've encountered are underwear, shirts, pillow cases, bed sheets, and rubber gloves, to name a few.

Lemke says the materials that cause the most frequent problems and the biggest clogs are feminine products and floss. "Dental floss is really hard on the systems."

Four years ago, the City replaced sewer lift pumps at one lift station for \$25,000. These utilities could last a lot longer if people didn't use toilets and drains like trash cans, Lemke says. If it's garbage, instead of flushing or washing down the drain, throw it out.

If you have questions about the sanitary sewer system, contact the City's Public Works Utilities Division at 763-593-8075.



HEAVY DUTY CLEANING WIPES AND CLOTHING CLOG THE BASKET AT A CITY SEWER SYSTEM LIFT STATION.

# As Ash Borer Gets Closer, City Prepares Defenses

The invasive Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) beetle has been spotted as close as St Paul, Shoreview, and Minneapolis, and it's only a matter of time before it makes it to Golden Valley.

"It could be three to five years or more, or it might be here now and we just don't know it yet," says Al Lundstrom, park maintenance supervisor. Regardless, the City has a plan in action to slow the beetles' spread.

Starting last winter, crews began the 15-year process of removing all public ash trees, which make up about 33 percent of trees in City parks, and replanting with a variety of tree species. This will ensure that no one species will be dominant, meaning in the future a bug like the ash borer won't pose as big a threat.



APPROXIMATELY 1 OF EVERY 3 TREES IN GOLDEN VALLEY PARKS ARE ASH TREES.

## PLANNING AHEAD...

City employees used GPS technology to digitally map the portions of Golden Valley's forest they manage and then created an across-the-board inventory of trees on public property (except for nature areas). Knowing the specific location of species clusters or individual trees allows City staff to resolve maintenance situations in a timely fashion and target resources where they're most needed.

Removing the ash trees now is a preemptive strike against the EAB beetle later taking out a fifth of the city's forest all at once, in which case removal would be costly and reactive.

"We're going to reevaluate the plan to see how many trees we should remove each year and consider asking residents to volunteer to have their boulevard trees removed to help spread out the liability," Lundstrom says.

## THE THREAT

The EAB beetle has killed tens of millions of ash trees where it has been discovered. Research has not found any resistance to this Asian beetle in our native ash. Minnesota has about 900 million ash trees, an important component of our urban landscapes.

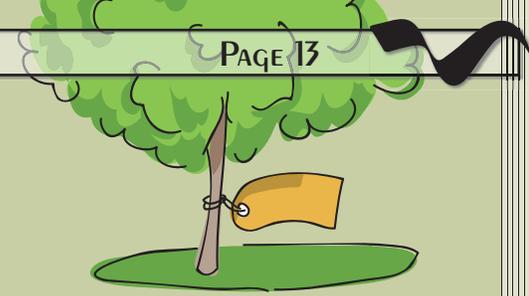
If you suspect an infestation near your home, visit the Minnesota Department of Agriculture website at [www.mda.state.mn.us](http://www.mda.state.mn.us) and use the "Do I Have Emerald Ash Borer?" checklist.

To report a possible EAB infestation, contact the Arrest the Pest Hotline at [arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us](mailto:arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us), 651-201-6684, or 888-545-6684. 

## QUARANTINE

To slow the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer beetle, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture has quarantined Hennepin, Houston, Ramsey, and Winona counties. Movement of the following items out of EAB quarantined counties are prohibited:

- firewood from hardwood trees
- entire ash trees
- ash limbs and branches
- ash logs or untreated ash lumber with bark attached
- uncomposted ash chips and uncomposted ash bark chips greater than 1 inch in two of three dimensions.



## YOU'RE INVITED: SPRING TREE SALE

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

### WHAT'S AVAILABLE

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

Several varieties are available that should grow well in this area, including a few hard-to-find species. MnDOT offers an online tool that can help you decide which kind of plant to get based on site characteristics: <http://dotapp7.dot.state.mn.us/plant/>.

Shade trees and evergreens start at \$15; shrubs are \$7. Non-Plymouth residents will pay \$1-\$2 extra for each selection.

### HOW TO ORDER

Orders are accepted through **April 16**. Starting Feb 1, get order forms online at [www.plymouthmn.gov](http://www.plymouthmn.gov). Click on "Services," then "Forestry," then "Bare Root Tree and Shrub Sale." Or, request a form from Golden Valley City Hall.

Plants will be available for pick-up April 27–28 at the Plymouth Public Works facility (14900 23rd Ave N) from 8 am to 1 pm. Although Golden Valley residents will pick up their ordered trees from Plymouth, they should contact Golden Valley staff with questions.

### OTHER QUESTIONS

For more information, check the Golden Valley website at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov) or contact Tim Teynor, assistant City forester, at 763-593-3976 or [tteynor@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:tteynor@goldenvalleymn.gov). 



## STOP THE TEXTS. STOP THE WRECKS.

### Distracted Drivers Are Dangerous

In 2009, 5,474 people were killed and an additional 448,000 were injured in crashes involving driver distraction, estimates the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Many of these crashes were caused by drivers using cell phones and other portable electronic devices (PEDs).

In December 2011, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) declared that texting, emailing, or talking on a cell phone while driving is too dangerous to be allowed anywhere in the United States. It then called for the first-ever nationwide ban on driver use of PEDs while operating a motor vehicle. Minnesota already has a law making it illegal to text while driving.

While a ban on PEDs would be decided by elected officials across the country, the recommendation and sobering data behind it provide a reminder of the dangers of driving while distracted, whether it is talking on your cell phone, disciplining noisy children in the backseat, or eating your morning meal behind the wheel.

You can curtail distracted driving in several ways. First and foremost—no texting while driving. It is illegal. You can also minimize participation in activities such as

- using a cell phone/smartphone
- eating and drinking
- talking to passengers
- grooming
- reading, including maps
- using a navigation system
- adjusting a radio, CD player, or MP3 player
- turning to speak to backseat passengers

Also, pay close attention to vehicles around you, since many drivers sharing the road with you allow themselves to be distracted.

For more information about distracted driving, recent successful enforcement efforts, and the NTSB recommendation, visit [www.distraction.gov](http://www.distraction.gov) and [www.ntsb.gov](http://www.ntsb.gov).

# There's A New Signal In Town

A new type of turn indication, the flashing yellow arrow, is making an appearance throughout the metro area, replacing the more traditional left turn indication at intersections.

## OPERATION

The flashing yellow arrow allows drivers to turn left when there is a safe gap in oncoming traffic, similar to left turns controlled by a solid green ball indication. When making a left turn on a flashing yellow arrow, drivers must yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians in the crosswalk.

The flashing yellow arrow gives a traffic signal more flexibility to efficiently serve various traffic conditions. During heavy peak traffic times, when sight lines for left turning traffic are reduced, the signal can operate in the traditional red, yellow, green arrow, mode when vehicles are allowed to turn left only on a green arrow. During lower volume, off-peak traffic times, the signal can operate with the new flashing yellow arrow, which permits left turning traffic to turn after yielding to oncoming vehicles or pedestrians in the crosswalk.

## BENEFITS

The flashing yellow arrow's main benefit is a shorter wait time for left-turning vehicles, especially during non-peak traffic hours, as drivers will no longer have to wait for a green arrow to make a left turn.

It also offers a safety benefit. The National Cooperative Highway Research Program funded a seven-year study on left turn indications and found drivers understood the appropriate driving maneuvers for a flashing yellow arrow better than for the more common circular green indication, which also allows left turns after yielding.

## EXISTING LOCATIONS

Flashing yellow arrows are already in use throughout the metro area. Some nearby intersections include Minnetonka Blvd and Toledo Ave (ramp to northbound Hwy 100) in St Louis Park, and Rockford Rd and Nevada Ave in New Hope. The use of the flashing yellow arrow will continue to expand as traffic signals are replaced, upgraded, or installed.

For more information on flashing yellow arrows, visit [www.dot.state.mn.us/trafficeng/signals/flashingyellowarrow.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/trafficeng/signals/flashingyellowarrow.html).

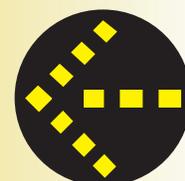
**Solid Red ARROW:** Drivers intending to turn left must stop and wait. Do not enter an intersection to turn when a solid red arrow is displayed.



**Solid Yellow ARROW:** The left-turn signal is about to change to red and drivers should prepare to stop or prepare to complete a left turn if they are legally within the intersection and there is no conflicting traffic present.



**NEW FLASHING YELLOW ARROW:** Drivers are allowed to turn left after yielding to all oncoming traffic and to any pedestrians in the crosswalk. Oncoming traffic has a green light. Drivers must wait for a safe gap in oncoming traffic before turning.



**Solid GREEN ARROW:** Left turns have the right of way. Oncoming traffic has a red light.



# City Provides Electrical Inspection Services

In July 2011, the City of Golden Valley began providing electrical permit applications and inspections, a service that was previously provided through the State of Minnesota. It was in the midst of last summer's State shutdown, when homeowners and contractors were still requiring permits and inspections, that the City decided to make the change.

Today, the City contracts independently with Steve Tokle, who previously provided those services to Golden Valley as a State electrical inspector. Golden Valley was one of many cities with such an arrangement, and one of many that switched to independent contracting during the shutdown. Of the four cities for which Tokle provided inspection services through the State, three now contract with him independently. He still provides services for the fourth city through the State.

What does that change mean to Golden Valley residents?

"It eliminates a step in the process," says Tokle. Residents can now pull all their permits through the City, and City inspectors can check their records to see if a permit has been pulled. With all the information at City Hall, it provides a one-stop shop.

The local connection also makes Tokle more accessible to residents, who can contact him directly for answers to questions.

Tokle was an electrician for eight years before he started doing electrical inspections with his father, who is also an electrical inspector, about five years ago.



## Why ELECTRICAL INSPECTIONS ARE IMPORTANT

Electrical permits cover installation of electrical wiring. Any electrical work done in a building, from replacing outlets to changing an electrical panel, requires a permit and inspection.

Why is this so important? Tokle lists four main reasons:

- 1. SAFETY.** One of the leading causes of house fires is faulty electrical wiring.
- 2. INSURANCE COVERAGE.** If you don't have an inspection or record of permits, and if there's a fire, insurance may not pay.
- 3. ACCOUNTABILITY.** When you sell your property, housing inspectors look for proof of electrical inspections. If they don't find any, the lack of inspections must be disclosed to the buyer.
- 4. ECONOMY.** Inspections after the fact are charged double the permit fee—as a fine for not pulling a permit to begin with.

Homeowners must own and occupy the property if they plan to pull their own permits for electrical work. Rental property owners must hire a licensed electrical contractor. And if you hire a contractor that doesn't want to pull an electrical permit, consider it a big red flag, says Tokle. Then, give him a call.

Two of 10 electrical inspections fail, whether the work is done by homeowners or contractors, he explains, so not getting an inspection leaves a lot to chance.

"Electrical permits are reasonably priced for the peace of mind," adds Tokle.

To make an appointment or leave a message, call Tokle at 763-390-9255 between 7-8:30 am, Monday through Friday. 

## LICENSING AND INSPECTIONS PROTECT PUBLIC

More than 100 years ago, officials at the State of Minnesota recognized the need to protect the public as use of electricity expanded at a rapid pace.

According to the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, the State established a Board of Electricity in July 1899, to provide for public safety related to use of electricity.

That first year the board established requirements for registration and licensing of "individuals who installed various types of electrical work in counties with a population of more than 125,000 persons." Electrical licensing became mandatory statewide in 1937.

Over the next decade, much of Minnesota gained access to electricity. In 1951, the State began requiring inspection of all electrical installations.

For years a bonded master electrician could operate a business performing electrical work, but in 1967, the law was changed to require licensing, bonding, insurance, and employment of a master electrician for electrical contractors.

The law changed again in 1985 to require licensing of power-limited electrical installers, like alarm and communication contractors.

In 2005, the Board of Electricity was transferred to the Department of Labor and Industry, which now oversees requirements for licensing and inspection to ensure the public will be "reasonably protected from fire and life safety hazards arising from the use of electricity." In 2007, the State "established a Board of Electricity to adopt the electrical code and any amendments, adopt rules that regulate the licensure or registration of the electrical industry and issue final interpretations of the electrical code."

Today, 11 Electrical Area Representatives monitor 81 electrical inspectors who are independent contractors. 



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.



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

- ▶ Installing Laminate Flooring
- ▶ Plan Your Project Online
- ▶ Maximizing Your Backyard's Potential
- ▶ New Trends In Interior Design
- ▶ Refinishing Wood Floors
- ▶ Rain Gardens And Barrels
- ▶ Tips to Successful Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling
- ▶ Decorative Painting Techniques
- ▶ Ceramic Tiling Demonstration
- ▶ Planning and Executing a Home Remodeling Project
- ▶ Kitchen Design Workshop
- ▶ Build a Personal Solar Station
- ▶ Kitchen And Bath Remodeling 2012: Small Innovations To Total Renovations
- ▶ Plumbing Repair Basics: Repairing Toilets and Faucets
- ▶ Sustain Your Terrain: Green Landscaping Insights
- ▶ Organic Lawn Care

# Home Remodeling Fair Celebrates 20 Years

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

Now in its 20th year, the HRF is a multi-city effort to boost housing conditions throughout the western suburbs. It will feature more than 100 exhibitors, free seminars and demonstrations, and an "Ask the Pro" booth. Exhibitors include architects, landscapers, designers, electricians, roofers, lenders, city inspectors, and more. Architects and interior designers at the "Ask the Pro" booth will offer no-obligation advice (bring your photos, sketches, and questions). Food concessions and children's activities will be available in the cafeteria.

Sponsors are the Cities of Golden Valley, St Louis Park, Hopkins, and Minnetonka, and St Louis Park, Hopkins, and Minnetonka Community Education. Co-sponsors are Advanced Home Improvements; Bachman's Landscaping; Building Arts Sustainable Architecture & Construction LLC; Center For Energy and Environment; DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen; Fair & Square Remodeling, LLC; Great Lakes Windows & Siding; Greenery Schack Landscaping; Neighborhood Building & Remodeling; Otagawa-Anschel Design Build; Sicora, Inc; and Timberline Construction and Remodeling.

For more info, go to [www.homeremodelingfair.com](http://www.homeremodelingfair.com) or contact Golden Valley's city planner at 763-593-8099. 



## If you go...

**WHAT:** The West Metro Home Remodeling Fair

**WHEN:** Sunday, Feb 26, from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm

**WHERE:** Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Hwy 7, Hopkins (one mile west of Hwys 7 and 169). Parking available on-site.

**COST:** Free

**NEW THIS YEAR:** "Operation Rescue Room" Contest—see page 1 for details.