



cityNEWS



MARKET IN THE VALLEY FARMERS' MARKET

...just one of many community activities in Golden Valley.

SEE PAGE 15

(Photo courtesy of Market in the Valley)

I/I REPORT

Golden Valley was one of the first cities in the metro area to aggressively go after the I/I problem. Here's how things are going.

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cityHEADLINES

Biennial Budget And Tax Levy Under Discussion

On Sept 4, the City Council approved the 2013 proposed tax levy and the 2013-2014 General Fund Budget. The proposed tax levy was set at \$16,944,232, an increase of 3.26 percent. The General Fund portion of this levy increased 2.2 percent, with the remainder covering debt.

The City Council began the budget process in early 2012 with three workshops to discuss goals and their financial impact. Council began reviewing the proposed budget in July and will continue until it adopts the final levy Dec 4. The levy the Council approved Sept 4, which will be used for the proposed property tax statements that will be mailed in November, cannot be increased but can only be decreased.

Minnesota law requires cities to adopt a budget annually. Golden Valley prepares a two-year budget to help with upcoming financial needs and forecasts. The proposed biennial budget includes General Fund expenditures and revenues and the 2013–2014 CIP for Parks, Buildings, and Equipment.

General Fund Budget

The General Fund Budget covers police; fire and inspections; street, park, and building maintenance; engineering; administration; City Council and manager; and park and recreation. Total proposed expenditures for 2013 are \$15,334,385, which is less than 2009 adopted expenditures.

When the City began providing electrical permit applications and inspections last summer, the added service cost an extra \$15,000, which is offset by revenues from permits.

The practice of accepting credit cards for payments in some areas increased costs by \$7,000.

Staffing levels remain constant overall, and a wage increase for all employees is set at 1 percent, except for a market increase with the police union at midyear.



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

Debt Levy

The Debt Levy covers payments on already-issued bonds for the Pavement Management Program (PMP), vehicles and equipment, and tax abatement. For 2013, the debt levy increases 7.64 percent. City Council has authorized scaling back the 2013 PMP and splitting it into two years. Council will annually review the scheduled improvements for each remaining PMP geographic area and their impact on the additional levies for bonded debt.

Property Values

Taxable market value on residential properties decreased by 5.84 percent, while it increased 3.12 percent on commercial properties. Overall, the City's total taxable market value went down 2.01 percent.

Due to the many changes in property values, the tax impact could vary for each property. Your property tax statement will compare your estimated tax payment in 2013 to 2012.

The 2013–2014 proposed General Fund Budget is available online at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/budget.

Questions? Contact City Finance Director Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010 or svirnig@goldenvalleymn.gov.

www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe/

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Get Ready To Vote Nov 6

Polls in Golden Valley open 7 am–8 pm for General Election

You may only vote in person at your assigned polling place but may vote absentee ahead of time if conditions warrant. Polling places are listed on page 16.

Voter Registration

You will need to register if you have never registered to vote, if you have changed your name or address since you last voted (including moving to another apartment in the same building), or if you have not voted in four years.

You may register to vote at any time except for the 20 days preceding an election (this year the cut-off is 5 pm Oct 16). Registering by Oct 16 ensures your name will be on the election day roster at your polling place.

To register, all voters must:

- be at least 18 years old on election day
- be a citizen of the United States
- have resided in Minnesota for 20 days immediately preceding election day
- maintain residence at the address given on the registration form
- not be under a court-ordered guardianship in which the court order revokes the right to vote

Election Day Registration

Minnesota allows voters to register to vote at the polls on election day. You will need to verify residence with one of the following:

- valid Minnesota driver's license, learner's permit, Minnesota ID card, or receipt for any of these
- valid student ID card including your photo, if your college has provided a student housing list to election officials
- valid Minnesota Tribal ID card that contains your photo and signature
- "Notice of Late Registration" letter from Hennepin County
- US passport with utility bill*

- have not been found by a court to be legally incompetent to vote
- have not been convicted of a felony without having civil rights restored

You may register by mail or in person by completing a Minnesota Voter Registration Application. Applications are available online (www.goldenvalleymn.gov/elections) and at most government offices and public libraries. Pick one up at Golden Valley City Hall.

You may also register at the Hennepin County Government Center, 300 South 6th Street - Public Service Level, Minneapolis.

To check if you're already registered to vote, go to <http://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterStatus.aspx>.



- US military photo ID card with utility bill*
- prior registration listed on roster at former address in precinct
- oath of a registered voter in precinct ("vouching")
- recent utility bill* with your current address (if your Minnesota license, Tribal ID, or MN State ID has a former address)

* Note: The utility bill must have your name, current address, and be due within 30 days of the election. Utility bills may be for electric, gas, water, solid waste, sewer, telephone, or cable TV.

If you have questions about elections or voting, contact City Clerk Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010.

Leave Your Leaves Behind

Fall Leaf Drop-Off Starts Sat, Oct 27

Golden Valley's Fall Leaf Drop-Off provides residents a place to dispose of their leaves at no charge during three late fall weekends.

The drop-off site will be at Brookview Park, south of Hwy 55 at Winnetka Ave. During drop-off days, Brookview Parkway becomes a one-way road. All traffic must enter the site from Winnetka Ave S and exit on Western Ave. City personnel will direct vehicles to drop-off points, where other personnel will help residents unload or de-bag leaves.

Guidelines

- Participants must provide proof of Golden Valley residency (Minnesota driver's license, ID, or proof of identity and address).
- Residents must untie leaf bags, help de-bag their leaves at the site, and take the bags home for reuse or disposal. No brush will be accepted.
- For fast unloading and to conserve your bags, leave them untied. A parking area will be provided for residents to untie their bags before getting in line.
- Residents hauling loose leaves must help unload their leaves at the site. (Tip: If you're hauling loose leaves, line the trailer or truck bed with a tarp before loading the leaves. To unload, help the workers lift the corners of the tarp and dump the leaves into the drop-off area.)



If you miss the Leaf

Drop-Off, contact your garbage hauler for its policies and rates or check the Yellow Pages or online for names of commercial yard waste processing sites. The Maple Grove Yard Waste Site (14796 101st Ave N) accepts leaves and brush up to 10 inches in diameter for \$8/cubic yard April through November. Grass is accepted for \$8/cubic yard June through September. Open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 7 pm, and Sunday, noon to 7 pm. Site closes November 30 and re-opens April 1 each year. For more information, contact the Yard Waste Site directly at 763-420-8971 or visit www.mgyardwaste.com.

If you have questions about yard waste, call Public Works at 763-593-8030. 

2012 Fall Leaf Drop-Off

SAT, OCT 27

8 am–1 pm

SAT, NOV 3

8 am–1 pm

FRI, NOV 2

8 am–4 pm

SAT, NOV 10

7 am–1 pm

@ Brookview Park

(south of Hwy 55 at Winnetka Ave, enter on Winnetka Ave)

Golden Valley Recycles

GREY Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week

Christmas

Pick-Up Date

Sat, Dec 29

BLUE Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week

Thanksgiving
New Year's 2013

Pick-Up Date

Sat, Nov 24
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.

NEW! Service Reminder Texts

Allied Waste now offers service schedule reminders via text message. On the Sunday of your service week, you can get a text reminder sent to your mobile phone.

To sign up, text "BLUE" or "GREY" (depending on your service week) to 292929. Please note residents in the Grey service area need to text "grey," not "gray." Standard text and data rates may apply. If you don't know your service week, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recycling/curbside/pdf/recycling-weeks.pdf.

Questions? Call Allied Waste at 952-941-5174 or send an email by visiting www.alliedwasteminnesota.com/Pages/ContactUs_St.aspx.

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

Mighty Tidy Day Is Oct 13

Get Rid Of Unwanted Or Unusable Household Items

Convenient, cost-friendly, and environmentally smart—Golden Valley’s Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day offers options for dumping your junk.



The eighth annual Mighty Tidy Day is Saturday, Oct 13, 8 am to 1 pm, at Brookview Park. Residents can dispose of mattresses, sofas, broken bicycles, tires, old appliances, computers, televisions, and more (see box below for list of items and fees). Donation opportunities are also available for furniture, household goods, and clothing.

Why Participate?

According to the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance, by 2020 the Twin Cities Metro area is projected to produce 6 million tons of waste, nearly twice the amount generated in 2000. Much of the discarded materials contain toxins that threaten public health and the environment.

Although Minnesota has a high rate of recycling, every little bit helps. During the 2011 Mighty Tidy Day, the City collected 16.19 tons of bulk waste, .82 tons of metal, 60 appliances, 29 tires, 500 lbs of textiles, and 13,000 lbs of electronics.

How To Participate

Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day is open only to Golden Valley residents. Proof of residency will be required at the entrance.

Enter Brookview Parkway from the north along Winnetka Ave (no entrance will be allowed from Western Ave). Workers will collect the appropriate fee by cash or check (see list below) and direct you to one of three lots. **No hazardous waste (motor oil, asbestos, cleaning solvents, pool chemicals, etc) is accepted.**

Paper Shredding

Safe and secure destruction of personal documents is one of the best ways to combat identity theft. Bring papers loose in

a paper bag (boxes will be returned to you). Staples and paper clips are OK. No binders or plastic material (computer disks, CDs, etc) will be accepted. Available for residents only and not businesses or other commercial enterprises.

Clothing And Fabric Donation

New this year will be a Courage Center collection for unsoiled fabrics and clothing. Unusable clothing or fabrics will be recycled.

Furniture/Household Goods Donation

Bring gently used furniture and household items for donation to Bridging, a non-profit organization that provides people transitioning out of homelessness and poverty with a one-time gift of quality goods to stabilize and improve lives while effectively using community resources.

Bridging needs bedroom, living room, and dining room furniture and household goods such as kitchenware, linens, bedding, lamps, small appliances, etc.

Bridging reserves the right to refuse donations and is unable to accept office furniture, clothing, large appliances, computers, audio equipment, sporting goods, infant/child items & toys, lawn/patio furniture and equipment, musical instruments, or holiday items. A detailed list of needed items is available at www.bridging.org. Donations are tax-deductible at the fair market value of each item.

If you have questions about Mighty Tidy Day, call Public Works at 763-593-8030.

MIGHTY TIDY DAY Disposal Costs

DONATION LOT

Free Collection

Donate gently used furniture and household goods, such as kitchenware, bedding and linens, lamps, small appliances, etc, to Bridging, and donate unsoiled fabrics and clothing to the Courage Center.

LOT 1

Electronics

Printer, VCR, DVD.....\$3
Laster printer.....\$5
Monitor, Plastic TV.....\$15
Computer system (monitor, CPU, keyboard).....\$15
Wood TV.....\$25

Fees for all other electronics will be \$3-\$25 based on size.

Tires/Batteries/Bulbs

Car tire.....\$5
Truck tire.....\$7
Tire rims.....\$2
Batteries.....\$3
Bulbs.....\$2

Textiles.....\$0

LOT 2

Scrap Metal

Clean metal.....\$0
Other (bikes, etc).....\$5

Appliances

Non-Refrigeration.....\$20
Freon units.....\$24

LOT 3

Bulk Items

Mattress/Box Spring (any size).....\$15
Couch.....\$20
Hide-A-Bed.....\$25
Chair (small).....\$5
Chair (large).....\$10

Misc Items\$18/yard

Paper Shredding...\$0

Recreation Highlights

Complete list in the Fall Activities Catalog or at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation.

Youth

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

Pre-School Playtime—Fridays, 10–11:30 am, \$3/child.

Basketball Winter Warm-Up—Grades 2–3: Tue, Nov 7–Dec 19, 6–7:30 pm, \$42; Grades 4–6: Mon, Nov 5–Dec 10, 6–7:30 pm, \$42.

Adult

Tae Kwon Do—Tue, Oct 23–Dec 4, 6:15–7 pm, \$59.

Watercolor Basics—Tue, Oct 23–Dec 4, 6:30–8:30 pm, \$50.

Yoga Flow—Tue or Thur, Oct 30–Dec 18, 5:30–6:40 pm, \$70.

Seniors

Defensive Driving 8-Hour First Timers Course—Tue, Oct 16 & 23, 6–10 pm, \$18/person. Register in advance at 651-291-9150.

Joy of Painting® the Bob Ross® Method—Bring home a fall scene ready to frame. Oct 18, 1–4 pm, \$60/residents, \$65/non-residents, includes materials. Min 5/Max 15.

Social Networking—Facebook, Skype, and texting. Oct 24, 9:45–11:15 am. \$2 at door. Register by Oct 22.

iSold It on eBay—Learn to buy and sell on eBay. Nov 15, 10–11 am.

For more information or to register, call 763-512-2345 (Monday–Friday, 8 am–4:30 pm). Register in person, by mail, by fax, or online. 🐾



Teen Dances Fill Recreation Niche

Adolescents Flock To City Events

For many local kids in grades 5 through 7, youth dances held at Crystal Community Center mark their first foray into adolescence.

The Cities of Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and New Hope coordinate these events three times each year to create an intimate and safe dance setting for kids to make lasting memories. Community members from the four cities work together with the help of about 20 volunteers, including police reserves, chaperones and a dozen staff members.

Up to 400 kids attend each dance, says Brian Erickson, a Golden Valley recreation supervisor.

“Some don’t have this kind of dance opportunity in their schools yet,” he adds. “This is often their first opportunity to go to a dance.”

The next dance will be the Monster Mash Teen Dance on Fri, Oct 26, from 7 to 9:30 pm. Organizers will provide music, concessions, and prizes for those participating in the costume contest.

At more than 15 years old, the Monster Mash is the longest-running dance in the program, Erickson says. Due to its popularity, in the last three years the coordinators expanded the program to include a winter and spring dance, held in January and March, respectively. Watch the City website and the Park and Recreation Winter Activities Catalog for dates and times.

The dances are \$5 in advance and \$8 at the door. 🐾

Monster Mash Teen Dance

Grades 5–7

Fri, Oct 26 • 7–9:30 pm

\$5 before Oct 25, \$8 at the door

Register at www.goldenvalleymn.gov. Click on “Parks and Recreation,” then “Youth Recreation,” then “Upcoming Special Events.”



Need Help Raking? Neighbors Helping Neighbors Is Standing By

Volunteers Will Rake Lawns Of Residents In Need Nov 3

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

Project volunteers are once again stepping forward to assist residents who need help with yard work, offering a **one-day fall raking blitz Nov 3**. To request service, call 952-746-4046 by Oct 26. Note: If leaves are to be bagged, resident must provide biodegradable bags.

Want To Volunteer?

If you can help with the raking, contact Volunteer Coordinator Sandy Werts at swerts@goldenvalleymn.gov or 763-512-2341 on or before Oct 30. You can also sign up online at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/community/neighborshelping.php. Groups and individuals are welcome. Students must be accompanied by an adult. The event kicks off at 8 am Nov 3 at Calvary Church, 7520 Golden Valley Rd. Come meet your neighbors and help keep the community looking good.

What Is Neighbors Helping Neighbors?

HOME, Valley Community Presbyterian Church, Calvary Church, and PRISM have come together as Bridge Builders to work on initiatives that help residents and keep up the neighborhoods. The collaborators previously recruited volunteers for a 2011 spring cleaning blitz and to help with moderate home repairs. In 2010, the group secured a Community Development Block Grant to help lower-income residents with basic home repairs in 2011-2012.

What Is Bridge Builders?

Several years ago, Envision Golden Valley brought citizens together to develop a vision for the community's future. After hundreds of residents responded, the City initiated a community support program to continue the momentum and help turn ideas into reality.

Today, the Envision Connection Project and Golden Valley Bridge Builders help individuals or groups to regularly connect with others in the community who share similar interests. Starting with ideas from Envision Golden Valley, Bridge Builders planted seeds for several initiatives that are blossoming today, such as the annual community ice cream social, the lilac planting project along Hwy 55, and Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

Anyone can be a Golden Valley Bridge Builder. To learn more, contact Volunteer Coordinator Sandy Werts at swerts@goldenvalleymn.gov or 763-512-2341. 

Fall Raking Blitz
Sat, Nov 3, 8 am

Request Service: call
952-746-4046 by Oct 26

Volunteer:
swerts@goldenvalleymn.gov
or 763-512-2341 by Oct 30

Sign up online at:
[www.goldenvalleymn.gov/
community/neighborshelping.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/community/neighborshelping.php)

Health & Wellness For Seniors

Boost Your Brain Power—Janus Labs provides the critical components of brain health and training, as well as a program that can be applied to everyday life. Oct 18, 10–11 am.

Medicare Advantage & Medicare Part D—Learn to be a smart Medicare Plan user and why it is important to take advantage of the annual election period. The class is an unbiased educational opportunity and not a sales pitch. Oct 31,

10–11:30 am. Register by October 26. Donation for refreshments.

Addressing the Diabetes Epidemic—Get information on types of diabetes, pre-diabetes, risk factors, the American Diabetes Association as a resource, and how you can fight diabetes. Nov 1, 1–2:30 pm, Calvary Center Cooperative.

Tai Chi for Health & Arthritis—Class is a series of easy-to-learn movements that promote physical and mental well-being.

Great for joint pain relief and fall prevention. Wear comfy clothes. Tues, Oct 30–Dec 18 (no class 11/6), \$45/resident, \$50/non-resident (7 classes). Basic class: 8:30–9:40 am, level 2: 9:45–10:45 am.

Enhancement Class—Once you register for the Tuesday class, add a second day to practice and enhance your Tai Chi experience. Thur, Nov 1–Dec 20 (no class 11/22), \$35/resident, \$40/non-resident. All levels: 8:30–9:30 am. 

Many of the downed trees measured 80–100 feet tall.

Destruction And Renewal

A Park Recovery Partnership Blossoms In North Tyrol

After a tornado ripped through the eastern edge of Golden Valley on May 22, 2011, North Tyrol Park was transformed. The playground was destroyed and nearly all of the huge trees were gone, stripping the park of amenities that made it a popular gathering point for the neighborhood.

The loss was dramatically reinforced a year later on July 4, when a group of more than 50 neighbors gathered under one of two remaining shade trees in North Tyrol Park. It was the neighborhood's annual Independence Day picnic, which normally occurred under a canopy of dozens of mature shade trees.

Looking around, the neighbors understood that despite repair and replanting work done by the City, North Tyrol Park will be vastly different from its former shady self for years to come. They decided to take action to more quickly restore their park to its former glory.

Thus was born "Trees For Tyrol," branded by neighborhood organizers as a tax-deductible fundraising effort to regrow North Tyrol Park "and get shade in our park before our children grow up."

Rebuilding

In the weeks after the tornado, the City cleaned up the downed trees and took stock of the situation. While insurance funds would help replace the damaged playground equipment, noth-

ing similar existed for funding replacement trees. In addition, the loss of trees accelerated erosion problems on the park's hillside.

Last winter City crews regraded the hillside, planted native vegetation, and covered it with hay mulch to prevent further erosion. According to Park Maintenance Supervisor Al Lundstrom, that work was made possible through a combination of timing, mild weather conditions, and fate.

"In most cases we wouldn't have been able to do much with that hill," Lundstrom adds. "With warmer temperatures and less snow to plow, crews were available and able to do the grading and planting. We also had enough fill on hand for the grading."

That still left the trees. The City was already using a \$15,000 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant, with a \$5,000 match from the City, to plant new tree varieties in public areas around town to replace ash trees removed in an effort to combat Emerald Ash Borer, explains Lundstrom.

BEFORE

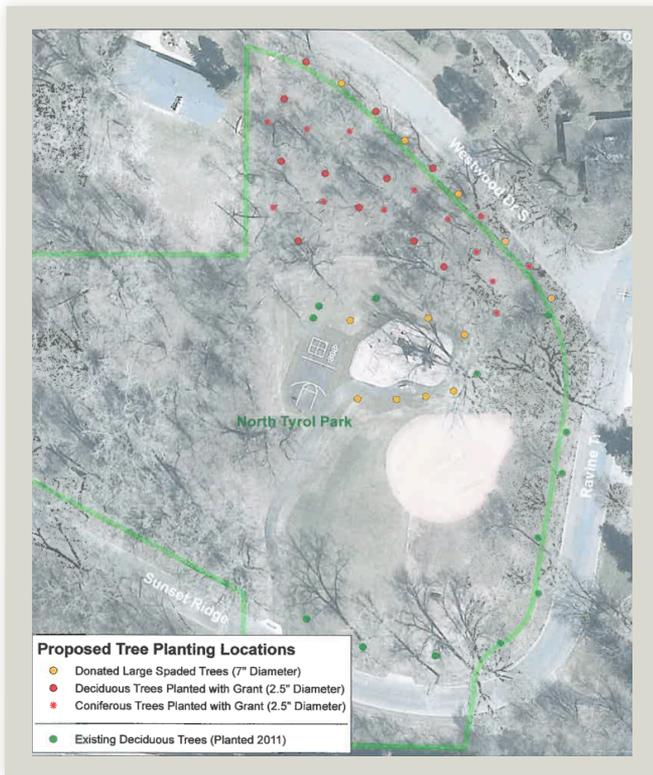


The destroyed North Tyrol Park playground and trees

AFTER



The new playground equipment and replanted hillside



Proposed tree planting locations to be implemented in North Tyrol Park.

Using some of the DNR grant, the City planted a few new starter trees in North Tyrol Park last fall and will plant approximately 30 more starter trees this fall. These starter trees are about 10–12 feet tall with trunks that are 2-1/2 inches in diameter, the industry standard for public tree planting, says Lundstrom

“This allows us to plant more trees in more parks,” he explains. “It becomes a lot more expensive to spade in larger trees that are 20–40 feet tall and 7–8 inches in diameter. Each spaded tree costs approximately \$1,000–\$1,500. You’d probably get five to 10 small trees for every large tree planted, depending on bids.”

The Neighborhood Steps Up

To supplement the City’s tree-planting efforts, several North Tyrol neighbors began working on a plan to purchase mature trees to plant alongside the younger vegetation, says Rob Wheaton, a North Tyrol resident who’s helping the effort to restore the park.

For months, neighbors worked with City staff and elected officials to prepare a draft resolution and conceptual planting plan

(see photo at left). In spring 2012, the City Council approved the resolution and established a municipal funding account to receive private donations for the Trees For Tyrol initiative.

Trees For Tyrol set a goal of raising \$15,000 by Oct 1, 2012, just in time to coordinate with the City’s schedule for planting the grant trees.

The trees planted by the City will eventually become mature shade trees, but not in time for children today to enjoy them, Wheaton says. Larger shade trees are more likely to encourage community gatherings at the park, and it’s a shame to lose something that prompted residents to gather on holidays and socialize face-to-face, reinforcing local bonds.

“If each of us is a patch in the North Tyrol Hills ‘quilt,’ then North Tyrol Park is a damaged patch that needs us to help mend it,” Wheaton says.

Success!

Trees For Tyrol reached its fundraising goal by Sept 4, and at press time the tree replacement fund stood at \$16,216. Everyone who donated received a yard sign saying, “We’re Regrowing Our Park.”

This will allow the residents of North Tyrol to contribute approximately 12 mature trees to the City’s restorative efforts in their neighborhood park.

“When these trees are in,” says Wheaton, “they’ll establish a soft-green buffer effect and, at the same time, maintain a visual connection, so people are drawn to and feel safe in the park again. We can be enjoying the results by next spring.”

Neighbors still interested in donating can send a tax-deductible check to City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Rd, 55427, care of Finance Director Sue Virnig.

For more information about Trees For Tyrol, contact Wheaton at robertpwheaton@gmail.com. If you have questions about park restoration, contact Al Lundstrom at 763-593-8046 or alundstrom@goldenvalleymn.gov. 



Top 10 Things A BURGLAR Won't Tell You

1 “Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.”



2 “I love it when you receive fancy new electronics and leave the empty box with the recycling at the curb. Then I don't have to wonder what good stuff might be in the house.”

3 “Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.”



4 “You bet I notice undisturbed drifts in the driveway—they're a dead giveaway. If it snows while you're out of town, get a neighbor to create car and foot tracks into the house.”

5 “If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.”



6 “It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door, that's understandable. But understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.”

7 “I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters (don't take me up on it).”



8 “Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.”

9 “You're right, I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.”



10 “An alarm system, TV, or radio can be a good deterrent to an inexperienced burglar, but a dog is a definite deterrent, especially to a more seasoned burglar!”

▶ The Golden Valley Police Department has reported an increase in the number of residential burglaries over the last few months. Although the trend has slowed a bit, please remember to be vigilant with your prevention efforts. About half of the reported burglaries this summer have been into houses that were unlocked. 

Season Change Brings CO And Fire Concerns

Fall marks a pleasant shift from hot to mild temperatures, from muggy to crisp, from air conditioners to fireplaces, but keep in mind that with these changes comes an elevated risk for fires and carbon monoxide poisoning.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, the two leading causes of reported home fires and home fire injuries are cooking and heating equipment. However, some potential fire hazards go undetected because people simply do not take steps to fireproof their home. The clothes dryer is one area that needs regular attention.

Dryer Safety

As you think about appliance safety this fall, consider a common danger that increases in the autumn: clothes dryer fires.

According to the US Fire Administration, an estimated 2,900 clothes dryer fires in residential buildings are reported each year and cause an estimated five deaths, 100 injuries, and \$35 million in property loss. Incidence is higher in the fall and winter months, peaking in January.

The leading factor in dryer fires is failure to clean (34 percent). Dust, fiber, and lint (28 percent) and clothing not on a person (27 percent) were, by far, the leading items first ignited in clothes dryer fires in residential buildings.

“Lint and dust are combustible,” says Stephen Baker, safety education specialist. “And all dryers have an ignition.”

Clean out your dryer, he adds. Clean the filter after every use and regularly clear the vents. When installing a new dryer, have a professional hook it up.

“Dryer fires are common, but preventable,” Baker says. “Very, very preventable.”

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Safety

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless, poisonous gas created by burning fuel. It comes from appliances used for

heating and cooking and from vehicles running in attached garages. Today’s energy-efficient homes can also trap CO-polluted air inside.

Clogged fireplaces and faulty furnaces make the risk of CO poisoning especially pertinent as temperatures drop. When it starts getting really cold, people are often tempted to let their cars warm up in the garage. This is a mistake, says Baker.

“Even if your garage door is open, the outside air pressure keeps the fumes inside the garage, where they will penetrate into the home,” Baker says.

Symptoms of CO poisoning include headaches, weakness, sleepiness, nausea, vomiting, confusion, and disorientation.

To limit CO, buy appliances approved by a nationally recognized testing organization such as Underwriter’s Laboratory (UL). When possible, choose fuel burning appliances that can be vented outdoors. Have all natural gas appliances, heating systems, vents, chimneys, and flues inspected and, if necessary, cleaned by a qualified technician every year. Provide adequate outdoor air for your furnace and water heater. It is unlawful to install an unvented fireplace in Minnesota.

Furthermore, state law requires all homes to have a CO detector within 10 feet of every bedroom or within each sleeping room. It’s a good idea to have one on each level of the home, especially the same level as the furnace, since that’s the most likely source of a CO leak, Baker says.

For more information about fire prevention and safety, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/fire/prevention/index.php.

City Is Making Progress With Inflow & Infiltration (I/I)

Between 2004 and 2006, the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) identified 49 Twin Cities communities, including Golden Valley, with excessive clear water flows into the regional wastewater system. Called Inflow and Infiltration (I/I), this excessive flow is an environmental and financial burden to the entire region, costing about \$300–\$400 million annually.

To create an incentive for cities to take action, in 2006 the MCES imposed a surcharge for communities with excessive I/I (Golden Valley's surcharge was \$380,000 per year for five years). Cities could choose to invest in I/I infrastructure cor-

rections in lieu of the surcharge, and Golden Valley was one of the first cities in Twin Cities metro area to aggressively go after the problem.

The Problem

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

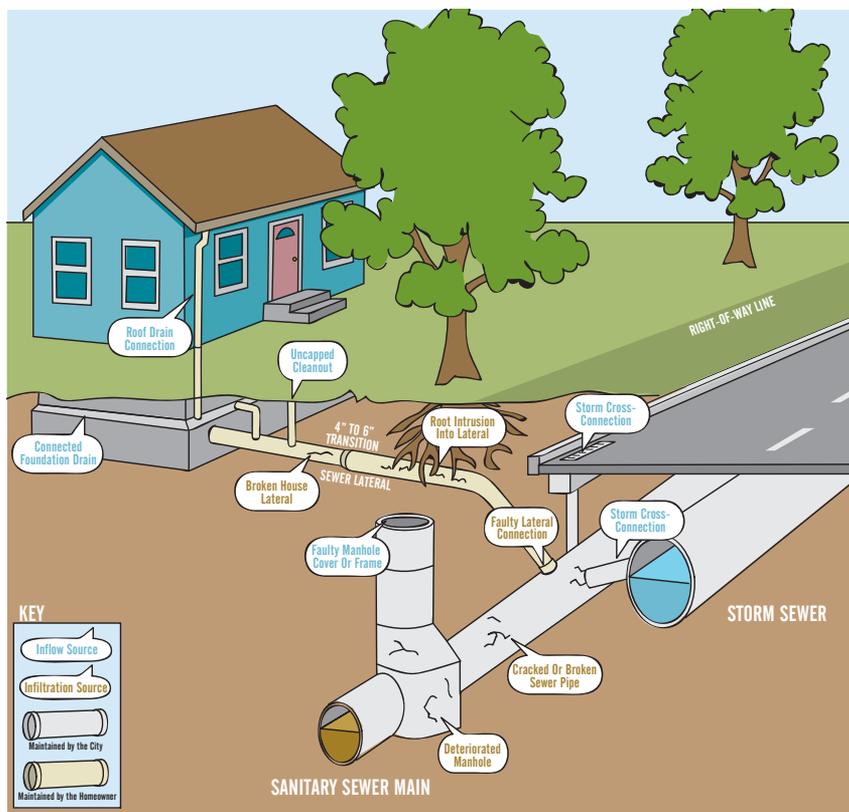
Because the sanitary sewer system was not designed to handle this excess clear water, it becomes overloaded during times of high groundwater and/or heavy rainfall.

The excess clear water from I/I problems uses sanitary sewer capacity needed for wastewater. The result is sewer backups in homes, discharges into our rivers and other water bodies, and increased costs for needlessly putting clear water through the wastewater treatment process.

Fixing The Problem

The City has always repaired or replaced the public portion of sanitary sewer piping as part of its Pavement Management Program (PMP). In addition, it has been educating citizens about correcting sources of I/I (cross-connected sump pumps, downspouts, and foundation drains) since 2002. But those tactics weren't enough to reduce Golden Valley's I/I to the extent necessary.

First, there are approximately 147 miles of privately owned sanitary sewer pipe in Golden Valley that could be contributing to I/I, and the City has no way of knowing if it is properly maintained. Second, as the City learned over time, asking property owners to improve their sanitary sewer services in an effort to reduce I/I on a voluntary basis wasn't effective.



To truly address I/I, the City concluded it was necessary to inspect private sewer systems.

In 2006, the City developed a voluntary inspection program to detect improper connections and advise property owners of significant I/I defects in private sanitary sewer services. Starting January 2007, the City Council changed the program to require a Point of Sale Inspection, which requires properties to pass a sanitary sewer inspection before being offered for sale or transferred to a new owner. Now in its fifth year, the Point of Sale Inspection has resulted in significant decreases in Golden Valley's I/I.

SEWERfest '12

Tuesday, Oct 30, 2012

4:30–7 pm

Golden Valley City Hall
7800 Golden Valley Rd

Also:

- Preview future Pavement Management Project areas where homeowners can address I/I issues
- Get information about the City's program to help residents finance I/I repair costs through special assessment

Report On The State Of Golden Valley's Wastewater Infrastructure

- How does I/I affect Golden Valley and the greater metropolitan area?
- What are the City of Golden Valley and Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) doing on the public sanitary sewer system to reduce I/I? What are other cities doing?
- What private property plumbing corrections can be implemented to reduce I/I? How many properties in Golden Valley are compliant?

Inspections Contribute To I/I Reductions

As part of the City's I/I reduction program, anyone selling property in Golden Valley must comply with the City's I/I Point of Sale ordinance. This includes having a complete sewer service inspection before offering the property for sale and either completing repairs or entering an escrow agreement before transferring property title. The last step is obtaining an I/I Certificate of compliance, which can occur either before or after the sale.

There are two options for a Point of Sale I/I Inspection: an inspection performed by the City, or an inspection performed by a City-approved licensed plumber. Inspections include a televised observation of the sanitary sewer service.

If a property fails inspection, the City issues a correction notice. Improper connections or defects in the sanitary sewer service pipe must be corrected before the City will issue a Certificate

of I/I Compliance. If a Certificate of I/I Compliance is more than one year old, a sump pump inspection is required before a sale or transfer of ownership. Failure to obtain a Certificate of I/I Compliance is a misdemeanor and may result in additional monthly charges on the customer's utility bill (\$500 residential, \$1,000 non-residential) and possible loss of water service.

The City offers free voluntary I/I inspections to all properties in its Pavement Management Program (PMP) projects. The City also offers a program to help residents finance sewer repair costs through special assessment. For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 763-593-8030.

The application fee is \$250 for residential properties and \$750 (per building) for commercial or multi-unit buildings. To schedule an Inspection, call 763-593-8030 between 8 am and 4 pm.

I/I Monitoring Shows Reduction

As the City of Golden Valley nears the end of its fifth year of performing I/I inspections, repairs to sewer lines are ongoing. I/I peak rates have been reduced based on measurements taken after the May 22, 2011 storm event. Through May 2012, monitoring of peak flow rates continue to show improvement in reduced I/I.

To date, the City has inspected, repaired, or replaced approximately 27 (24 percent) of 113 miles of public sanitary sewer pipe. On the private side, 2,971 (37 percent) of Golden Valley's approximate 8,000 private sewer services have been inspected and of those, 2,279 (29 percent of all properties, or 77 per-

cent of those inspected) are now compliant (see I/I Inspections table below for details). 

I/I Inspections (as of July 6, 2012)	Point Of Sale	PMP	Total
Properties Inspected	2,154	817	2,971
Compliant	1,913	366	2,279
Compliant after PMP (Reported as Point of Sale)	—	30	—
Non-compliant*	241	451	692

* Of non-compliant properties found during voluntary PMP inspections, 27 were due to improper sump pumps/foundation drains, 331 were due to pipe or joint defects, and 93 were due to obstructions in the pipes, no access to the pipe, etc.

Be Safe In School Zones

Help make this school year a safe one for the entire community by observing the following safety precautions.

Stop For School Buses

It is illegal to pass a school bus that has stopped to load or unload students. Motorists should slow down and prepare to stop when they encounter a bus with yellow flashing lights, which means the bus is preparing to stop. Red flashing lights and an extended stop arm indicate the bus has stopped and children are getting on or off. Motorists must stop their cars and wait until the red flashing lights are turned off, the stop arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving before they start driving again.

School bus stop-arm violations are disturbingly common. Violators put children's lives at risk and are subject to fines and/or jail time:

- Misdemeanor stop-arm violation—Passing a bus when the red lights are flashing, the stop-arm is extended, but no children are present can result in up to a \$1,000 fine and/or 90 days in jail.
- Gross-misdemeanor stop-arm violation—Passing the bus when the red lights are flashing, the stop-arm is extended,

and children are present, or passing the bus on the right side, can result in up to a \$3,000 fine and/or one year in jail.

- Misdemeanor—Neglecting to stop for a crosswalk patrol that is extending the stop flag can result in up to a \$1,000 fine and/or 90 days in jail.



Prevent Pedestrian Crashes

Pedestrian injuries are the second leading cause of unintentional death in children ages 5 to 14, and fatalities among young pedestrians most often occur during the after-school hours.

Children age 10 and under cannot judge the speed or distance of moving vehicles, their peripheral vision is one-third less than that of an adult, and their size often makes them hard to see.

That means it's up to drivers to take responsibility for safety in areas where children are present. The following tips will help.

- Slow down. Drive 20 miles per hour in urban school areas, whether children are present or not, and never pass another vehicle in a school zone.
- Look for safety patrols, school buses, and other signs that children are in the area.
- When stopped for a school bus, make sure all children are safely off the street before proceeding.
- Scan between parked cars and other objects for children who might dart out. For children nine and under, about 50 to 70 percent of injuries result from darting into the street.
- When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch out for children walking to the bus stop or walking or biking to school.
- Watch for children walking in the street, especially where there are no sidewalks, and for children playing and gathering near bus stops.
- Be alert and ready to stop. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking for traffic.
- Avoid distractions such as cell phones and other devices. ~



UPCOMING events

Market In The Valley

Sun, Oct 7, 9 am–1 pm (closing day)
Under the Water Tower

More information at www.marketinthevalley.org.

Mighty Tidy Day

Sat, Oct 13 (see page 5)

Monster Mash Teen Dance

Fri, Oct 26 (see page 6)

Annual Leaf Drop-Off

Three Oct & Nov weekends (see page 4)

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Fall Raking Blitz

Sat, Nov 3, 8 am (see page 7)

General Election

Tue, Nov 6 (see page 3)

DADDY/DAUGHTER PRINCESS BALL

Fri, Nov 9 • 6:15–7:45 pm

Brookview Community Center

An enchanted evening for princesses (ages 3–9) and their daddies with Once Upon a Star's Cinderella and her friends Sleeping Beauty and Pocahontas. Includes dancing, a snack, a photo, and craft project. Register by Nov 1.

Mailbox to the North Pole

Nov 26–Dec 14

Brookview Community Center

Drop off letters at Santa Claus' special Direct-to-the-North Pole mailbox at Brookview Community Center.

GVPD Toys For Tots Collection

Starts Nov 26

Golden Valley Police Department

Annual GVPD toy collection culminates in a parade to the KARE 11 Toys For Tots drop site. Bring new, unwrapped toys and gifts for older kids and teens.

HOLIDAY CONCERT WITH THE ROBBINSDALE CITY BAND

Thur, Dec 6, 7 pm

Crystal Community Center (4800 N Douglas Dr)

Concert and sing-a-long. Refreshments begin at 7 pm, concert at 7:30 pm. Donations accepted for refreshments.

Supper with Santa

Fri, Dec 7, 6–7:30 pm

Brookview Community Center

Pizza, holiday music, a holiday show, and a visit from Santa Claus! Adults must accompany children. Register now. \$10/resident, \$15/non-resident, \$5/adult meal.

VALLEY VOLUNTEER DAY

Sat, Oct 6, 9 am–4 pm

Various locations around Golden Valley

Help beautify Golden Valley, promote healthy living, and share community pride by volunteering.

- **Busting Buckthorn***—9 am–noon, Golden Valley Historical Society, 6731 Golden Valley Rd
- **Defining SEA School Trails***—9–11, am, School of Engineering and Arts (SEA), 1751 Kelly Dr
- **Pumpkin Painting**—9–11:30 am, Peaceful Valley Montessori Academy, 5530 Golden Valley Rd

- **Lilac Weeding*** — 1 pm–4 pm, various location TBD
- **Create Your Own Activity**—Let us know what you'd like to do, and we'll include it as part of Valley Volunteer Day activities.

*For outdoor activities, wear work gloves, hard-soled shoes, and appropriate outdoor attire.

Organized by Golden Valley's Envision Connection Project Bridge Builders. For details, visit www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/valleyvolunteerday/index.php.

More event information at: www.goldenvalleymn.gov/calendar



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Golden Valley DMV

Your local, full-service Deputy Registrar

- Quick and efficient turn-around of your MN title transfers, New to Fleet transfers, and registrations
- Fast-track services on most types of title transfers



Hours

Mon–Thur: 8 am–5:30 pm
Fri: 8 am–5 pm



PHONE 763-593-8111
EMAIL dmv@goldenvalleymn.gov
WEBSITE www.goldenvalleymn.gov/motorvehiclelicensing/

Back In Business:

Get DNR Licenses At GV DMV

Before you head out on that ATV or try to snag that 8-point buck, make sure you have the proper license.

Golden Valley’s Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) processes

licenses for fishing, hunting, boating, ATVs, and snowmobiles, all required by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Getting a DNR-approved license from Golden Valley’s DMV only takes a few minutes, depending on the type of license.

An ID is required to purchase a fishing or hunting license. The electronic licensing system requires that Minnesota residents provide a driver’s license, public safety identification card, or DNR firearms safety training card as proof of residency.

Questions? Contact the GV DMV at 763-593-8111.



Check Your Polling Place Some Precinct Boundaries Changed

Redistricting changed boundaries in Golden Valley’s Precincts 2a and 3c (see list at right). To find your voting location for the November 6 election, go to: <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>. You must vote in your own precinct between 7 am and 8 pm.

Precincts

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



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.

