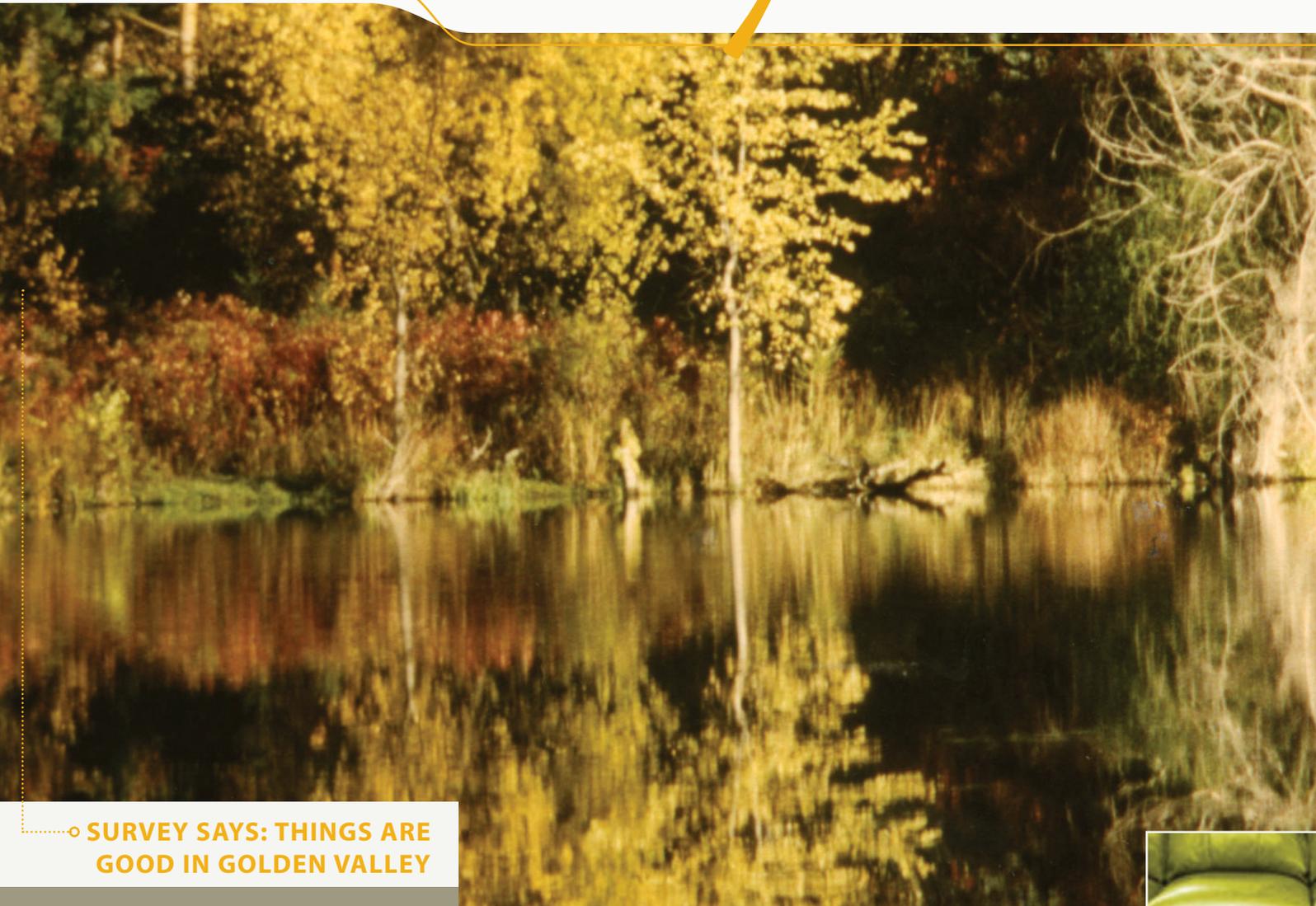




cityNEWS



o SURVEY SAYS: THINGS ARE GOOD IN GOLDEN VALLEY

The 2013 residential survey shows major changes in public opinion in the last five years, and almost all of it is positive.

SEE PAGES 8-9

Photo by Janice Laulainen, Views of the Valley 1998

JOIN GOLDEN VALLEY'S VOLUNTEERS

Golden Valley invites you to join its growing team of volunteers to help strengthen the City and build community bonds.

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Council Considers Biennial Budget And Tax Levy

On Sept 3, the City Council approved the 2014 proposed tax levy and the 2014–2015 General Fund Budget. The proposed tax levy was set at \$17,435,574, an increase of 2.9 percent. The General Fund portion of this levy increased 2.57 percent, with the remainder covering debt.

The City Council began the budget process in early 2013 with 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 3. The levy the Council approved Sept 3, 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 2014–2015 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 parks and recreation. Total proposed expenditures for 2014 are \$16,157,070.

The City is expected to receive local government aid in 2014 (for the first time since 2003) in the amount of \$219,290, which is equivalent to 1 percent of the entire budget. This will help reduce the impact on taxpayers by lowering the total overall property tax needed to balance the budget.

The City participates in several cost-saving strategies, such as a State consortium to buy fuel, equipment, and vehicles; membership in a multi-city computer consortium; and cooperative sharing of equipment and services with other cities.

Changes to the proposed budget include addition of 1.5 full-time positions to help with proactive housing maintenance inspections.

Debt Levy

The Debt Levy covers payments on already-issued bonds for the Pavement Management Program (PMP), vehicles and equipment, and tax abatement. For 2014, the debt levy increases 4 percent. 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 1.55 percent, while it increased 2.08 percent on commercial properties. Overall, the City's total taxable market value went down .66 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 2014 to 2013.

The 2014–2015 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.

City Now Accepts Online Utility Bill Payments

Golden Valley utility customers can now pay and manage their bills online at <https://eub.goldenvalleymn.gov/>. This service includes billing, meter reading, and usage history; service information; and auto pay information.

Online payments can be made using a credit or debit card. This is a NON-RECURRING form of payment, meaning you'll have to enter your credit card information each time you pay.

To pay online with a credit card, you will need your utility bill and your credit card. After you link to the online payment site, click on "Make A Payment Now." Enter your customer and account numbers found at the top of your utility bill, then follow the prompts to make a one-time non-recurring credit card payment. For more information, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/utilities/understanding-bill.php.

City Election Is Nov 5

For the Nov 5 City 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
- 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>.

New Voting Equipment

Because Golden Valley has an odd-year municipal election, it will be one of the first Hennepin County cities to implement new voting machines on election day Nov 5.

The new DS200 ballot counters replace equipment in use since 1999 and feature digital technology and improved voter amenities. Voters will still complete paper ballots and insert them into the ballot counter.

To see a video demonstration of the DS200, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/elections/index.php. If you want a live demo, stop by second floor of City Hall by Oct 18. 



Registering To Vote On Election Day

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*

- 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. 

Fall Leaf Drop-Off Starts Sat, Oct 26

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, utility bill, 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 or garden waste 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, brush, and grass for a fee. 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. 🌿

2013 Fall Leaf Drop-Off

SAT, OCT 26

8 am–1 pm

FRI, NOV 1

8 am–4 pm

SAT, NOV 2

8 am–1 pm

SAT, NOV 9

7 am–1 pm

@ **Brookview Park**

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

Golden Valley Recycles

GRAY Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 30
Christmas	Sat, Dec 28

BLUE Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
New Year's 2014	Sat, Jan 4

Missed Pick Ups

If your recycling is missed on Friday, call Allied Waste at 952-941-5174, Option 5, before noon on the following Monday. If you have specific recycling questions, call 763-593-8030.

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



To sign up to receive emailed recycling updates and reminders, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe.

Clean Up Your Act Oct 12

Mighty Tidy Day Offers Options For Dumping Junk

Convenient, cost-friendly, and environmentally smart—the ninth annual Mighty Tidy Day is Saturday, Oct 12, 8 am to 1 pm, at Brookview Park.

Golden Valley residents may 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. **No hazardous waste (motor oil, asbestos, cleaning solvents, pool chemicals, etc) is accepted.**

Enter Brookview Parkway from the north along Winnetka Ave (no entrance will be allowed from Western Ave). Proof of residency will be required at the entrance. Workers will collect the appropriate fee by cash or check and direct you to one of four lots (see box below).

Donation Station

PRISM (more information on page 15) will collect unsoiled fabrics and clothing (unusable textile items will be recycled) and will also be accepting donations of non-perishable food, personal care products, and more. A detailed list of needed items is available at <http://prismmpls.org/>. Donations are tax-deductible.

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. A detailed list of needed items is available at www.bridging.org. Donations are tax-deductible at the fair market value of each item.

Bridging reserves the right to refuse donations and is unable to accept office furniture, large appliances, computers, audio equipment, sporting goods, infant/child items & toys, lawn/patio furniture and equipment, musical instruments, or holiday items.

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.

Why Participate?

Aside from the benefits of recycling materials instead of landfilling them, some of these materials contain toxins that threaten public health and the environment, so proper disposal is important. During the 2012 Mighty Tidy Day, the City collected 13 tons of bulk waste, 88 appliances, and 16,000 lbs of electronics.

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

MIGHTY TIDY DAY Disposal Costs

LOT 1

Electronics

- Non-Television: \$5/each
- Peripherals (anything that attaches to electronic devices but is not a power source): \$1/each
- Computer Monitors/ TVs
 - CRT: \$15/each
 - Flat Panel: \$10/each

Appliances

- If one typical person can carry it (microwave, dehumidifier, mini-refrigerator): \$10/each

- Other (dishwasher, dryer, freezer, range/stove, refrigerator, washing machine, water heater): \$20/each

Tires

- With rims: \$7/each
- Without rims: \$5/each

Batteries: Free

Fluorescent Bulbs

- CFL (household): \$1/each
- 4-foot long or less: \$1/each
- Longer than 4 feet: \$2/each
- U-bent: \$2/each

LOT 2

Scrap Metal

- Clean metal: Free
- Other (bikes, etc): \$5/each

Paper Shredding: Free

LOT 3

Bulk Items

- Mattress/Box Spring/Chair: \$15
- Couch: \$20
- Misc: \$15/cubic yard
- Construction debris, lumber, etc: \$18/cubic yard

DONATION LOT

Free Collection

Bridging is accepting donations of gently used furniture and household goods, such as kitchenware, bedding and linens, lamps, small appliances, etc.

PRISM is accepting gently-used shoes and clothing for all ages as well as textiles for recycling. Donations of non-perishable food and personal care products are also welcome.



Recreation Highlights

Complete list in the Spring & Summer Recreation Activities Brochure or at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation.

Youth

Pre-K Playtime (ages 1–5 w/adult)—Fridays, 10–11:30 am, Brookview, \$3/child day, 10-visit pass \$25.

Kids Club (ages 3–5)—Mon/Wed, Oct 21–Dec 9 or Tues/Thurs, Oct 22–Dec 10, Brookview, 9:30–11 am.

American Red Cross Babysitting Training (ages 11–15)—Nov 9, Brookview, \$77 resident.

Adult

Davis Community Center Open Gyms—8–10 pm: Mon (35+ Basketball), Tues/Thur (18+ Volleyball), Wed (Pickleball); 8–10 am: Sat (18+ Basketball); 1–3 pm: Sun (18+ Volleyball).

Seniors

Money Matters—Oct 17: “2013 Legal Update: Wills, Trusts & Other Estate Planning Tools,” 10 am, Brookview.

Medicare Advantage & Medicare Part D 2014—Oct 23, 9:45 am, \$2 at door. Register by Oct 21.

Tai Chi for Health & Arthritis (Basic)—Tues, Oct 29–Dec 17 (no class Nov 5), 8:45–9:40 am, \$45/resident

Tai Chi for Health & Arthritis (Enhancement)—Add a second day to your Tai Chi experience. Oct 31–Dec 19 (no class Nov 28), 9–10 am, \$35/resident.

For more information or to register, call 763-512-2345 for Youth and Adult and 763-512-2339 for Seniors (M–F, 8 am–4:30 pm). Register in person, by mail, fax, or online.



Stay Active This Winter

Pickleball And Many More Activities Offered

As another summer cedes to colder temperatures, it's tempting to fall into hibernation mode. But finding ways to keep active, even during the winter months, is always worth the effort when it comes to your health.

Regular physical activity performed most days of the week reduces the risk of succumbing to some of the leading causes of illness and death, according to the US Department of Health.

Besides the old winter standbys—skiing, snowshoeing, shoveling, etc—the City of Golden Valley offers an array of indoor activities appropriate for all ages.

Pickleball Gaining In Popularity And Fun For All Ages

Pickleball, for instance, has grown in popularity and was recently included in Golden Valley's recreation programs.

“It's a lot of fun and very social,” says Carrie Anderson, recreation supervisor. She says the sport is quickly building a good reputation, and as more and more people try it out, the more versatile it will become. “Once the sport starts getting a good following here, we can look at creating leagues and tournaments.”

The game follows the same rules as tennis but is played on a badminton court, which is smaller, with a whiffle ball, making the play less rigorous and more friendly to people of all ages. Lessons or previous playing experience are not required, Anderson says.

To try it out, just drop by the Davis Community Center (in Meadowbrook School on Glenwood and Xenia Aves) on Wednesdays from 8 to 10 pm. The drop-in fee is \$4, or \$28 for a 10-time punch pass. Bringing your own paddles and ball is encouraged, but equipment is also provided for residents just curious about the game.

“We want to give people a chance to try out the sport a few times before they decide to buy their own equipment,” Anderson says.

Many More Where That Came From

Golden Valley offers a variety of other indoor activities during the winter, including line and belly dancing, yoga for all ages, bowling, Pilates, Tae Kwon Do, and more. Davis Community Center offers adult open gym year round, with volleyball and basketball opportunities in addition to pickleball.

Finally, if you don't mind the cold, walking is considered one of the best forms of exercise. By keeping more than 40 miles of its trails plowed and ice-free, Golden Valley encourages walking every season of the year.

For a list of fall activities and winter programs, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov.





Golden Valley Volunteers

Be a part of our team

Volunteering is a great way to give back to the community while meeting new friends and gaining valuable experience. The City of Golden Valley is building a program that includes opportunities to help as well as a base of folks interested in helping strengthen the City and build community bonds.

“Volunteering is an essential agent in building social capital and community organization,” says Sandy Werts, Golden Valley’s volunteer coordinator. “We want to strengthen community engagement by connecting the talents, interests, and abilities of individuals and groups with projects that enrich City programs and services.”

Current Volunteer Opportunities

Photo Posse

Enjoy photography? Golden Valley’s communications department is looking for residents interested in taking photos of City events and community interactions for use in the City’s publications and website.

Storm Sewer Stenciling and Storm Sewer Stenciling Coordinator

Help stencil an environmental message on neighborhood storm sewers (such as “Dump No Waste, Drains To Creek”) and distribute educational materials to the neighborhood. Got organizational skills? Volunteer to coordinate teams of storm sewer stencilers in your neighborhood.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Rake-a-Thon (Oct 25–Nov 4)

See story on page 12.

Mighty Tidy Day Movers (Oct 12, 8 am–1 pm)

The City needs volunteers to help disadvantaged residents load and unload furniture and other household items during Mighty Tidy Day (see story on page 5).

Coaching And Special Needs Assistance

Coaches and other activity leaders are needed to work with children and special needs adults for Golden Valley’s Parks & Recreation Department.

For more information about Golden Valley’s volunteer program, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/community/volunteers/index.php. To become a volunteer, complete the online application. To get regular emailed updates about upcoming volunteer opportunities, subscribe at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe/index.php. Questions? Contact Werts at 763-512-2341 or swerts@goldenvalleymn.gov.

www.goldenvalleymn.gov/community/volunteers

Residents Give Golden Valley Glowing Review

2013 Citizen Survey Results Are In

To keep track of Golden Valley's progress over the years, the City Council has conducted community surveys in 1995, 1999, 2001, 2006, and again in 2013.

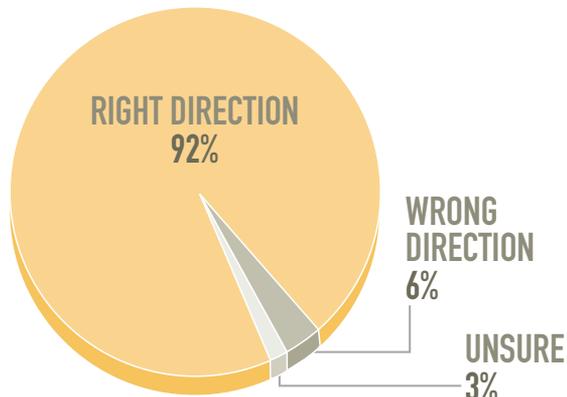
And the latest results give Golden Valley some bragging rights.

"It's a real pleasure to be here with you tonight, because the news is outstanding," said Bill Morris, president of Decision Resources, Ltd (now Morris Letterman Company), as he briefed the City Council in August on the surveyors' results. "This is one of the most positive reports I've given this year."

As it did in 2006, the phone survey randomly sampled 400 households with an error rate of plus or minus 5 percent.

In almost every case, very favorable ratings were either stable or improved from five years ago. In most categories, Golden Valley ranks within the top three Cities in the metro area, and in some cases it's No. 1.

For instance, 92 percent of citizens think Golden Valley is "headed in the right direction" with only 6 percent saying "things are off on the wrong



track." This is the most positive response of all the cities Decision Resources has surveyed, Morris said.

Decision Resources' clients include metro area cities such as Plymouth, Maple Grove, Edina, Eden Prairie, St Louis Park, Crystal, New Hope, Bloomington, Minnetonka, Burnsville, Richfield, Woodbury, and Eagan, to name a few, as well as school districts and corporations.

"I've always thought Golden Valley was a gem in terms of the metropolitan community," Morris said. "And certainly this survey adds a lot of polish to that gem."

As for areas in the City that need improvement, residents thought Golden Valley could use more starter homes for younger families, more senior housing and assisted living, and more entertainment establishments.

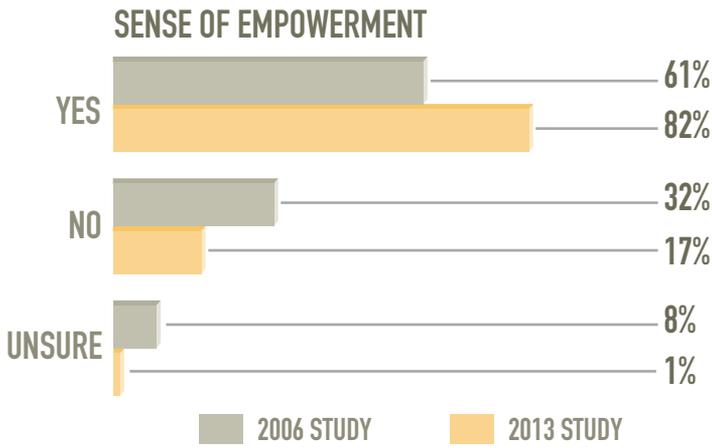
Dramatic Improvements Over 2006

The survey shows major changes in public opinion in the last five years, and almost all of it positive.

The number of people who say they feel safe in the community matches what you'd see in a third or fourth-ring suburb, Morris said, with 88 percent of residents saying they thought there were no unsafe areas in the City, compared to 50 percent in 2006. Residents listed "juvenile crime" as the No. 1 public safety problem.

Eighty-two percent of respondents said they believe they could have a say, other than by voting, about the way the City is run, a 21 percent jump since 2006.

Favorable job approval for the City Council and Mayor increased from 57 percent to 89 percent in the last five



Across the board, the number of residents saying they were unsure of what to think decreased, often dramatically. Morris says this relates to how well informed they are.

Fifty-nine percent of residents said their main source of information about the City is this newsletter, with 57 percent saying it's also their preferred choice of information.

"Your city newsletter is probably one of the most effective city communication pieces in the metropolitan area," Morris said.

In Summary And Full Report

"Through sound policies, and a well-defined plan for the future, residents of the City of Golden Valley have transformed from contented citizens to enthusiastic citizens," states the survey report summary. "They feel informed and empowered. In fact, they feel confident. This will prove to be critical in the coming years, particularly as the City confronts issues of a more Metropolitan nature."

To watch Morris's presentation to the City Council, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/council/meetings.php, then click on the "Watch on TV or Online" link and open the August 20 City Council meeting link.

years, and job approval for City staff saw a similar leap, from 58 percent favorable to 89 percent.

Furthermore, 52 percent of respondents rated Golden Valley's quality of life as excellent, a 16 percent jump over the 2006 results.

These sharp improvements are surprising, Morris said. "Statisticians are used to seeing glacial change."

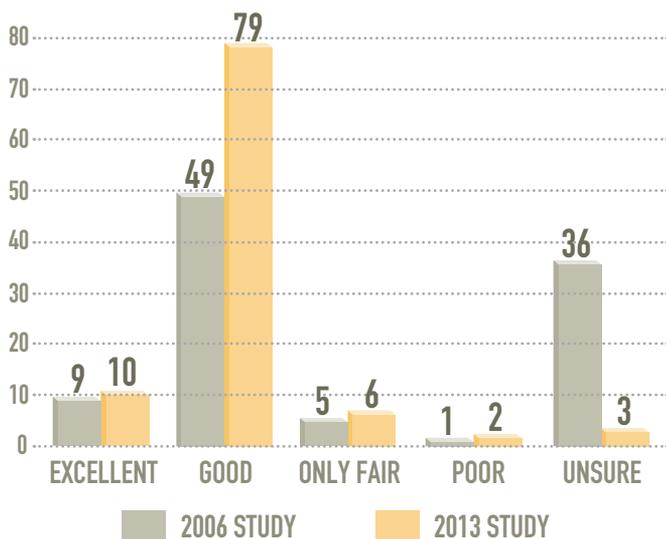
City Services Get Glowing Reviews

Most City services received favorable ratings higher than 90 percent, with some, such as police, fire, and dependability of drinking water, rating as high as 99 percent "good" or "excellent" and others, such as park maintenance and communications, coming in at 98 percent.

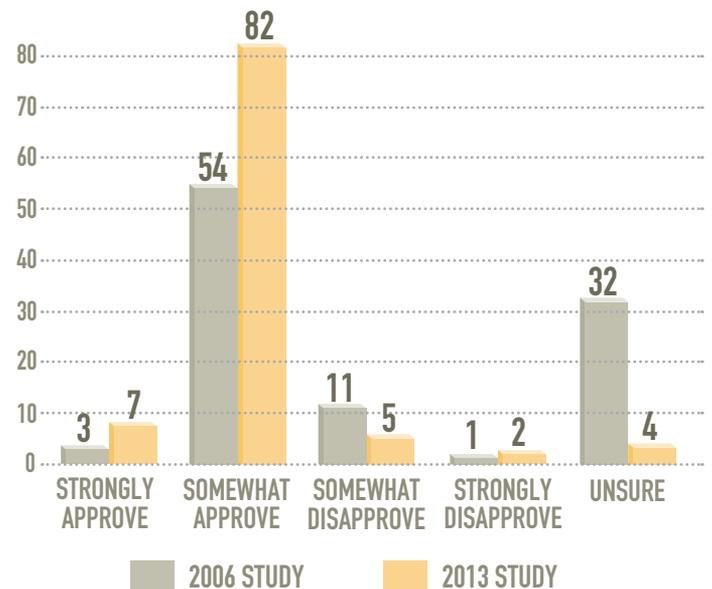
"We don't have results like this anywhere else across the metro area," Morris said. "It's not just the high ratings. It's the consistency of it as we go through the array of services."

The entire report can be read online at:
www.goldenvalleymn.gov/community/survey

JOB PERFORMANCE OF CITY STAFF



JOB PERFORMANCE OF CITY COUNCIL



Easiest Way To Deter Crime? Locks

Prevent Crimes Of Opportunity: Lock Your Cars, Close Garage Doors

About 50 percent of theft from autos and burglaries could be prevented if people simply remembered to lock up their stuff, says Joanne Paul, crime prevention specialist.

People feel safe in Golden Valley (see survey results on pages 8–9), Paul says, and that's a good thing. But the downside is residents then assume they don't have to secure their belongings.

Cars, homes, and garages are all easy targets if unlocked. A common practice among burglars is to walk from one house to another until they find an unlocked door. They'll do the same with cars.

"Thieves will just walk up and down the street and look for cars that are unlocked," Paul says. "They'll take anything from spare change to GPS units. You name it, they'll take it."

Theft from autos occurs at any time of day in parking lots, driveways, and on the street. The same goes for garages. It's often too easy for burglars to gain entrance to a person's home, not just through unlocked doors, but through unlatched windows and with the use of garage door openers left in unlocked cars.

Locking up your possessions should become habit, Paul says. Park your car in lighted areas and don't leave valuables inside. Write down the serial numbers of your valuables so they can be

tracked if stolen. Why make it easy for thieves?

"The majority of crimes are crimes of opportunity," Paul says. "So lock up your valuables. Remove the opportunity."

Also, stay vigilant. If you see any suspicious behavior in your neighborhood, call 911 and report it, even if you think it's probably nothing. Immediately reporting suspicious behavior leads to effective crime prevention.

For more information, contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 763-593-8058 or jpaul@goldenvalleymn.gov.

If you have questions about crime prevention in Golden Valley or are interested in joining or forming a Neighborhood Watch group (see story below), contact the Police Department at 763-593-8079 or police@goldenvalleymn.gov. 



Help The GVPD: Get Involved With Neighborhood Watch

When neighbors work together with the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD), it creates the best crime-fighting team around.

The GVPD cannot have an officer on every corner, so involvement from residents is essential in preventing crime. Be a good neighbor and make Golden Valley safer from criminals by participating in Neighborhood Watch.

How To Start A Neighborhood Watch

To begin, contact the GVPD at 763-593-8079 or police@goldenvalleymn.gov and arrange an introduction meeting

between neighbors and police. The GVPD will talk about crime in Golden Valley, how local criminals operate, what to recognize as suspicious, how to use 911, how to protect yourself and your home, and what a difference Neighborhood Watch can make. Police also keep Watch members informed about crime and trends that may affect the community.

Once the GVPD receives a copy of your block map, Neighborhood Watch street signs will be posted in your neighborhood. Provided by the Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund, these signs warn criminals that your Neighborhood Watch group immediately reports all suspicious activity and communicates with the police.

All Neighborhood Watch members also receive the Neighborhood WatchBlog e-newsletter, which provides information about safety and security issues, prevention programs, and available resources. 



Cooking Is The Leading Cause of Household Fires

Preventing Kitchen Fires Is Theme Of 2013 Fire Prevention Week

As the holiday season approaches and families gather for home-cooked meals, it's a good time to think about preventing kitchen fires. By far the biggest cause of fires in any home is cooking. That's why "Prevent Kitchen Fires" is the theme of Fire Prevention Week 2013, Oct 6–12.

"Half of house fires start in the kitchen," says Stephen Baker, fire prevention specialist.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), US fire departments responded to an estimated annual average of 156,600 cooking-related fires between 2007-2011. These fires resulted in 400 civilian deaths, 5,080 civilian injuries, and \$853 million in direct damage.

Many factors contribute to the prevalence of kitchen fires, Baker says. People too often leave combustible items on or near the stove, such as paper towels or plastic containers. Keep clothes and other combustible objects clear of the burner, and don't go too long without cleaning the stove, which can build up flammable grease over time.

Another problem, Baker adds, is that people get in the habit of multi-tasking while they cook, so they leave the kitchen unattend-



ed. The best way to prevent cooking fires is to attend the stove at all times. NEVER leave an open flame or boiling pot unattended.

And if a fire does occur, DO NOT throw water on it.

"Throwing water on a grease fire is very bad," Baker says. "It only exacerbates the problem." Aside from the risk of third-degree burns, smoke inhalation can incapacitate you within seconds.

Instead, turn off the burner, put a lid over the flame, and do not touch the pan for 20 minutes. If the fire does not go out, get out of the home and call 911. If a lid does not work or the fire is caused by something other than grease, grab a fire extinguisher.

Make sure you know exactly where the fire extinguisher is in your home or apartment, and how to use it (see below).

Devising an escape plan in case of a fire and installing properly working fire alarms are also easy ways to prevent a future tragedy.

For more about Fire Prevention Week, visit the National Fire Protection Association website at www.nfpa.org.

Safe Homes Have Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers are necessities in every safe home—they can keep small fires from getting bigger or give you the opportunity to open a path of escape.

To deal with all common fires, the Golden Valley Fire Department recommends buying a professional extinguisher (labeled ABC), five pounds or larger, with a metal valve assembly. Check hardware or home improvement stores. Be sure to install fire extinguishers in a readily accessible location near an escape route, above the reach of children, and away from stoves and heating appliances.

Refer to the manufacturer's instructions for proper use and routine care.

Several factors need to be considered before fighting a fire with an extinguisher. Always remember to keep the exit to your back. Never let the fire get

between you and the exit. Also, make sure someone is evacuating the building and calling 911 (you can't do both).

Holding the fire extinguisher, stand six to eight feet from the fire, then make a PASS:

P—Pull the pin to unlock the extinguisher's operating lever.

A—Aim low, pointing the extinguisher's nozzle at the base of the fire.

S—Squeeze the lever below the handle to discharge the extinguisher. Release the lever to stop the discharge.

S—Sweep the discharge from side to side at the base of the fire until fire is out. If it reignites, make another PASS.

If you have questions about selecting or using fire extinguishers, contact Fire Education Specialist Stephen Baker at 763-593-3977.



With Property Maintenance, It's Not Too Early To Look Ahead To Spring

This fall, the main thing to think about when it comes to keeping your property well-maintained is how to avoid problems in the spring, says Dave Gustafson, Golden Valley's fire/property maintenance specialist.

"You want to make sure you get your leaves disposed of before the snow falls, or else the bags deteriorate and you'll face a big mess when it thaws," he explains. The City's Fall Leaf Drop-Off (see story on page 4) offers one disposal option.

Prep your lawn for winter by pulling out seasonal plants, gardens and other vegetation grown over the summer, or else they will rot during the cold months. And clearing out your gutters now will make life easier during spring cleaning.

Also, shut off all outdoor water spigots so they don't freeze during the winter and double check the insulation in your attic. Inadequate attic insulation can result in dangerous ice dams on your roof.

Property Maintenance Inspections Keep Aging Homes Looking Young

Nearly 80 percent of Golden Valley homes were built before 1970, making property maintenance standards a priority for the City and its citizens, not just for the overall appearance of neighborhoods, but also for the well-being of the community.

The Residential Property Maintenance Code, passed by the City Council in 2007, stresses a common-sense approach to maintaining your home, and it continues the City's pursuit of proactively maintaining the vitality and integrity of its housing stock. The response has been positive, Gustafson says. Most people

are happy the City has become more active in getting neglectful homeowners to shape up.

In the past, the City approached property maintenance issues on a complaint basis, receiving an average of 40 complaints per month. With the new code in place, all homes are subject to property maintenance compliance and exterior inspections. Gustafson says this encourages people to find and fix maintenance concerns well before an inspector shows up.

How to Avoid a Complaint

Residents are encouraged to talk to their neighbors and see if they can resolve issues ahead of time. In the event you cannot reach your neighbor or the matter is not being resolved, inspectors will be happy to work with residents to identify and resolve property maintenance issues.

Be proactive, Gustafson says. Three or four times a year, walk around your home and take note of anything that looks run-down or damaged. Use common sense.

"If it doesn't look right, it probably isn't right," he says.

Litter and garbage, including bags of leaves left to pile up, are the source of most violations. Unkempt lawns are also a frequent cause of hefty violation fees.

If you're not sure whether your house is up to code, give Gustafson a call at 763-593-8074, and he'll inspect your property and provide expert advice on what, if anything, needs to be repaired. You have nothing to lose—citations are not issued during voluntary inspections. Questions? Contact Gustafson at 763-593-8074. 

Raking Blitz Helps Those In Need

Golden Valley residents who need help raking their yards can request help from the **Neighbors Helping Neighbors Fall Raking Blitz, set for Oct 25 - Nov 4, 2013**. Based on availability of volunteers, raking teams and individuals will be dispatched from participating churches (Calvary, Valley Community Presbyterian, Golden Valley Lutheran, and King of Grace) to homes that ask for service.

To schedule leaf-raking service: Call the Senior Community Services HOME Program at 952-746-4046 by Oct 19. Volunteers will rake and bag leaves and take them to the curb. Residents are responsible for providing biodegradable bags and arranging for disposal.

If you can help with the raking: Contact Golden Valley Volunteer Coordinator Sandy Werts at 763-593-2341 or sign up online at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/community/neighborshelping.php. Groups and individuals are welcome. Students must be accompanied by an adult. Volunteers should dress for the weather and bring gloves, rakes, and any other equipment needed.

The Neighbors Helping Neighbors initiative began in 2008 when Senior Community Services HOME Program, Valley Community Presbyterian Church, Calvary Church, and PRISM came together as Bridge Builders to work with the City on projects that help residents and keep up neighborhoods. 

City Outlines Next Steps For Bottineau Transitway

In early 2013, the Metropolitan Council amended the metro region's Transportation Plan to include the Bottineau Transitway, a dedicated light rail transit (LRT) corridor proposed to extend from downtown Minneapolis to northern Brooklyn Park. The Bottineau LRT will travel out of downtown Minneapolis, through Golden Valley along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Corridor, then into Robbinsdale, Crystal, and Brooklyn Park, where it will end north of Hwy 610. Over the summer, Golden Valley residents had two opportunities to learn more about the proposed Bottineau LRT and share their thoughts on the project.

Hiawatha LRT Tour

Approximately 25 Golden Valley residents took a guided tour July 27 of the Blue Line (Hiawatha) LRT. Residents, along with Hennepin County and City staff, boarded the LRT at Target Field and rode the train to the VA Hospital in south Minneapolis. There participants went for a walk along the LRT tracks to see how the facility impacted surrounding neighborhoods.

Questions and answers from the LRT tour are available on Golden Valley's Bottineau LRT resource page at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/planning/bottineau.php. The page also includes links and other information regarding the Bottineau project.

LRT Roundtable Meeting

Hennepin County held a public roundtable meeting Aug 15 at Unity Church on Golden Valley Rd to discuss developments regarding the Bottineau LRT and to kick off station area planning activities. The goal was to gather public input to help the project team better understand issues that need to be addressed in upcoming planning work.

After a brief update on the status of ongoing Bottineau LRT corridor planning and related initiatives, attendees participated in facilitated roundtable discussions about community needs, issues, and desired outcomes relative to planning in two station areas—Plymouth Ave and Golden Valley Rd.

The meeting also included updates on related corridor initiatives, such as the Bottineau Transitway Health Impact Assessment, the Penn Avenue Community Works project in Minneapolis, and the Theodore Wirth Regional Park Master Plan in Golden Valley, as well as updates from the Theodore Wirth Regional Park Bot-

ineau Transitway Design Forum held earlier in 2013.

What's Next?

The Bottineau Transitway **Draft Environmental Impact Statement** will be submitted for Federal Transit Administration legal review and cooperating federal agency review in September 2013.

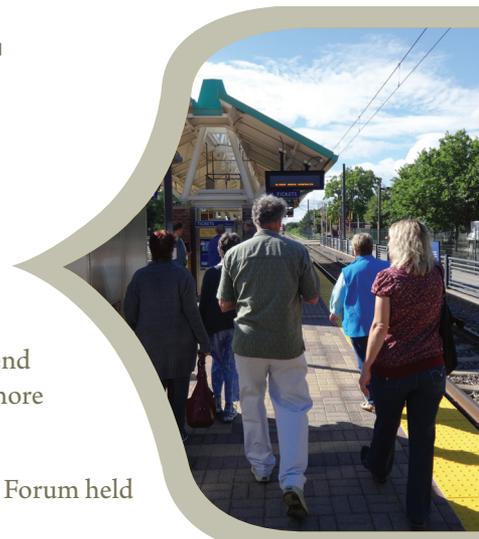
Station area pre-planning work has been amended to include the full complement of LRT stations associated with the locally preferred alternative. The full report is posted at www.bottineau-transitway.org/land_planning_framework.htm.

Community engagement, with a focus on **health equity** in communities along the corridor, is the next step in the integration of health and station area planning for the Bottineau Transitway.

Health equity considerations play a crucial role in ensuring the Bottineau station areas support populations with higher risks for poor health, including low-income and minority populations. The health assessment will likely be completed in December and approved by the County Board early in 2014.

Hennepin County and Nexus Community Partners will engage communities along the Bottineau Transitway in tandem with station area planning and coordinate with the consultants chosen to carry out station area planning.

Questions about the Bottineau LRT? Contact Study Manager Brent Rusco at 612-543-0579. 🌟



City Council Passes Solar Energy Ordinance

In August, the City Council passed an ordinance that allows Solar Energy Systems within all Golden Valley zoning districts, subject to administrative review and approval by the community development director. The ordinance regulates location, placement, design, and maintenance of active and passive Solar Energy Systems to ensure such equipment is appropriately located and used in a safe and effective manner.

The complete ordinance can be found at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/code/index.php, City Code 11.75. 🌟

Pedestrian Safety Starts With You

School is back in session and so are the school buses, accompanied by an influx of walkers and bikers. Drivers, bikers, and pedestrians alike need to be alert and aware of the following school bus and crosswalk safety precautions.

School Bus Savvy



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.

Every year, dozens of school bus stop-arm violations are reported:

- **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.

As the new school year gets under way, the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) will have an additional presence around school zones. For more information, contact the GVPD at 763-593-8079.

Crosswalk Criteria

Crosswalk safety is everyone's responsibility. "Take 5 & Save A Life" asks all motorists, walkers, and bikers to take 5 seconds to follow these safety guidelines (from Minnesota Statutes 169.21).



Pedestrians

- Always cross at marked crosswalks or intersections. You forfeit your rights as a pedestrian if you cross elsewhere.
- Obey pedestrian signals and look left-right-left to make sure the road is clear in both directions before crossing.
- If a vehicle approaches, make eye contact with the driver to be sure s/he sees you before you cross.
- Look before crossing in front of stopped vehicles. Do not cross just because a driver waves you on.
- Remember that bicyclists are not considered pedestrians unless they are walking their bikes. Otherwise, they are considered vehicles.

Bicyclists

- Yield to pedestrians.
- Remember that bicyclists are not considered pedestrians unless they are walking their bikes. Otherwise, they are considered vehicles and forfeit their rights as pedestrians in the case of an accident or citation.
- Use marked bike paths or multi-use paths when available.
- Obey vehicular traffic signals and laws on the roadways.
- Use extra caution as you transition between bike paths, roads and sidewalks. Be aware that your actions are unpredictable to drivers and pedestrians.

Drivers

- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and at intersections.
- Be prepared to stop at all marked crosswalks and intersections. Remember, intersections are legal crosswalks even if they are not marked. Stay alert and reduce speed in areas with pedestrians.
- Be alert for bicyclists and skateboarders who may approach crosswalks more swiftly than pedestrians.
- Come to a complete stop if pedestrians are crossing or preparing to cross.
- Wait until pedestrians have crossed at least one lane past the lane you are in before resuming travel.
- Never pass another vehicle that has stopped or is slowing down at a crosswalk.



UPCOMING (free) events

Mighty Tidy Day

Sat, Oct 12 (see page 5)

MONSTER MASH TEEN DANCE

Fri, Oct 25 • 6:15–7:45 pm

Crystal Community Center

Music, contests, prizes, and fun for kids grades 5–7. Co-sponsored with Crystal, Robbinsdale, and New Hope. \$5 by Oct 24, \$8 at door.

Annual Leaf Drop-Off

Three Oct & Nov weekends (see page 4)

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Fall Raking Blitz

Oct 25–Nov 4, 8 am (see page 12)

General Election

Tue, Nov 5 (see page 3)

DADDY/DAUGHTER PRINCESS BALL

Fri, Nov 15 • 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 7. \$21 (residents).

Mailbox to the North Pole

Dec 6–20

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 Dec 2

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 LIGHTS TOUR

Wed, Dec 4, 3:15–8:30 pm

St Paul

Dinner at Fabulous Ferns, followed by a guided tour of St Paul's holiday lights. \$56/person. Last day to register/cancel: Nov 18.

Supper with Santa

Fri, Dec 6, 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.

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

PRISM FOOD DRIVE

Throughout November

Golden Valley City Hall & Public Safety

Throughout November, the Golden Valley Federated Women's Club is partnering with Bassett Creek Dental to collect food for PRISM.

Collection barrels will be located in the lobbies of City Hall and the Public Safety building, both at 7800 Golden Valley Rd, and at Bassett Creek Dental, 5851 Duluth St.

PRISM is a community-funded social service agency in Golden Valley that provides families in need with food, financial assistance, transportation, and other services in times of financial hardships. Items most needed include flour, sugar, cooking oil, canned tuna, canned chicken, peanut butter, pasta sauce, pasta, cereal, and condiments (salsa/ketchup/mustard/salad dressing/mayonnaise).



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www.goldenvalleymn.gov

Polling Places

To find your voting location for the November 5 election, go to: <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>. You must vote in your own precinct between 7 am and 8 pm.

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

11 On Ballot For Nov 5 City Election

Eleven Golden Valley residents will be on the ballot Nov 5 for three Golden Valley City Council seats. Nine are running for two four-year seats and two are running in a special election to fill the remaining two years in a third four-year seat.

The four-year terms of Council members Paula Pentel and DeDe Scanlon are up Dec 31, 2013. Neither are running for re-election. Larry Fonest, Simon Gottlieb, Bob Hernz, Greg Keivit, Chris Miller, Gillian Uecker Rosenquist, Paul David Schofield, Jacquelyn Smith, and Andy Snope are candidates for the two four-year Council seats.

The term of Council member Steven Schmidgall is up in early November, 2013. Schmidgall was appointed in January 2013 to fill the vacancy left by Mike Freiberg's Nov 6, 2012 election as State Representative for District 45B. Although the remainder of this City Council term expires Dec 31, 2015, Minn. Stat. 412.02 required the City Council to appoint a replacement until an election is held, at which time a special election must be held to replace or affirm the appointed person if more than two years remain in the unexpired term. That special election can be held at the City's next regular election, and the person elected at that time would serve a two-year term until the City's next election in 2015. John Giese and Steven Schmidgall are candidates for the special election to fill the two-year seat.

More information about the candidates is available on the Minnesota Secretary of State website at <http://candidates.sos.state.mn.us/>. Under "Search by Office Title," click the drop-down menu and find Golden Valley.

City Council Candidates

Two-Year Seat

John Giese
500 Yosemite Ave N
763-370-0960

Steven Schmidgall
6534 Olympia St
612-419-8142

Four-Year Seat

Larry Fonest
4901 Dawnview Terrace
763-529-2955

Simon Gottlieb
100 Quebec Ave S
763-443-6776

Bob Hernz
2400 Cavell Ave N
612-208-3501

Greg Keivit
7320 Half Moon Dr
612-382-9002

Chris Miller
408 Natchez Ave S
763-205-6623

Gillian Uecker Rosenquist
2321 Kyle Ave N
763-529-9279

Paul David Schofield
327 Turner's Crossroad S
612-202-8922

Jacquelyn Smith
2721 Major Ave N
612-521-7529

Andy Snope
1320 Unity Ave N
612-524-9558



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.

