



cityNEWS



“LOOKING FOR A STRIKE” WINS TOP PHOTO HONORS

A close-up of a dragonfly with a dew-drop bowling ball captured the grand prize in the 22nd annual *Views Of The Valley* contest.

SEE PAGES 8-9

Photo by Jeff Lamberg

CITY CONSIDERS A NEW COMMUNITY CENTER

Does Brookview Community Center meet Golden Valley’s needs? A citizen task force is studying the issues.

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Emergency Water Supply Fee Begins Oct 1

Starting Oct 1, Golden Valley utility customers will notice a new fee in their utility bills labeled “emergency water supply.” The fee (\$.20/per 1,000 gallons of water used) will help finance a \$4 million Joint Water Commission (JWC) project to drill three emergency wells that can be used if for any reason its Minneapolis water supply becomes unavailable.

The JWC, which includes the Cities of Golden Valley, Crystal, and New Hope, has purchased treated Mississippi river water from Minneapolis for more than 50 years. Costs of the project will be shared by the three Cities based on their ratio of water use.

The wells would only be used in an emergency. If the JWC’s existing water supply is compromised, the wells would be able to provide an essential amount of water to the three communities for an indefinite period. Possible examples include contamination of the river, catastrophic damage to one or both of the Minneapolis water plants, or a long drought that dropped river levels to a point where water couldn’t be taken. Water supply emergency and conservation plans are required under Minnesota State Statute (473.89).

The three JWC Cities use about 7 million gallons of water each day, and water demands have been relatively constant over the

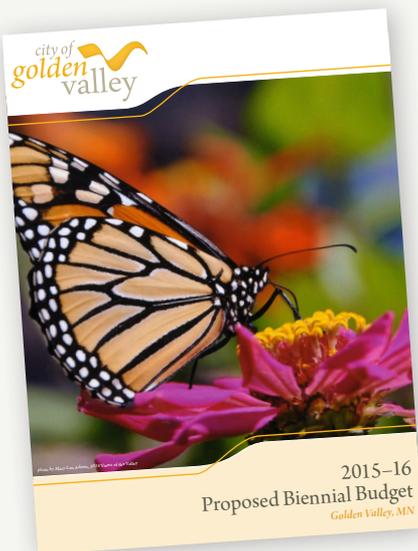
past 10 years. In the summer, water demands increase dramatically (often up to 17 million gallons each day) when residences and businesses irrigate their lawns.

JWC reservoirs can store 28 million gallons of water, enough to meet each day’s needs for about four days (during normal usage). Operators often fill the reservoirs at night to be ready for another day of demands from customers and provide water for firefighters.

One of the wells will be built next to the 9-million-gallon JWC reservoir in Golden Valley near Theodore Wirth Park. The other two wells will be built next to the 19-million-gallon JWC reservoir in Crystal. Additionally, an existing well in New Hope will be restored.

The Cities of Crystal, New Hope, and Golden Valley formed the JWC in 1963 to purchase treated water under one contract from the City of Minneapolis and to efficiently manage the three Cities’ unique water distribution system in a fair and equitable manner. Each City maintains its own distribution system and utility billing, meter reading, and water sampling functions.

If you have questions about the new fee, contact the Finance Department at 763-593-8013. ~



Council Begins Budget Review

Minnesota law requires cities to adopt a budget annually, and the Golden Valley City Council held its first discussion July 8 on the proposed 2015-2016 City budget.

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 2015–2016 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Parks, Buildings, and Equipment.

For the 2015 budget, in September the Council will approve a proposed levy that will be used for the Truth in Taxation (TNT) notices that are sent out in November. The final levy and budget will be approved in December for 2015 property tax statements.

The 2015–2016 proposed General Fund Budget and other funds can be viewed online at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/budget. Information is also available at City Hall.

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

GV Joins *Beyond The Yellow Ribbon*

Quad Communities Include Crystal, New Hope, and Robbinsdale



To support their residents in the military and their families at home, the Cities of Golden Valley, Crystal, New Hope, and Robbinsdale officially became Yellow Ribbon Communities at a June 15 proclamation ceremony at the Crystal Airport.

In early 2013, the four cities agreed to pool their resources to be designated *Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Quad Communities*. Volunteers developed a sustainable action plan demonstrating commitment to *Beyond the Yellow Ribbon*, a comprehensive program that creates awareness for the purpose of connecting military service members and their families with community support, training, services, and resources.

This includes providing formal training events for service members and their families before, during, and after deployment as

well as providing an opportunity for Minnesotans to support service members and their families.

Quad Cities joins nearly 200 Minnesota cities, counties, and businesses already proclaimed *Beyond the Yellow Ribbon*.

For more information about *Beyond the Yellow Ribbon*, go to www.beyondtheyellowribbon.org. The website has helpful information for service members and their families on a variety of topics. It also offers information for individuals, groups, and organizations that want to get involved.

The *Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Quad Cities* website features a “Contact Us” page for those interested in being involved in any of the Yellow Ribbon Action Areas of city leadership, public safety/judicial, faith based, veteran/civic organizations, businesses/employers, social services/medical providers, or education/youth. For more information go to <http://btyr-qc.org>.

GVHSF Funding Applications Due Aug 22

The Golden Valley Human Services Fund (GVHSF), which is composed of community volunteers, helps fund several nonprofit agencies that serve Golden Valley residents in need. For 2014, the GVHSF contributed \$40,500 to the following organizations:

- Canvas Health/Crisis Connection provides free 24-hour telephone counseling to people with personal and family problems and crises.
- Community Mediation is committed to developing the capacity of our community to respectfully resolve conflict and repair harm.
- Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery provides shelter care for children up to age six for families dealing with stress or crisis that need time away from children to stabilize themselves.
- Northwest Suburban Dinner At Your Door provides nourishing meals to homebound people unable to prepare a home-cooked meal.
- PRISM provides families in need with food, financial assistance, and other services in times of financial hardship. Funds are used to provide emergency and support services to Golden Valley residents.

- Senior Community Services HOME Program offers services to help elders remain independent in their homes.
- Senior Community Services Outreach provides in-home counseling and case management to help frail elders remain independent.
- The Bridge For Youth provides connections between the current realities of homelessness and a brighter, safer, more stable future.
- TreeHouse provides guidance to teens experiencing difficult times at home, in school, or in their families, as well as support and education for parents and families.



Funding applications for 2015 are due Aug 22, 2014, at 4 pm. GVHSF funding guidelines and application are available on the City’s website at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/boards/gvhsf/. Applications are also available at City Hall or Brookview Community Center. For more information or to make a tax deductible contribution, call 763-512-2340.

Hennepin County Offers Slew Of Recycling Resources

Hennepin County offers services for almost any recycling need.

A to Z How To Get Rid of It Guide—If you don't know how to get rid of something, this search feature will direct you to wherever you need to go. Just follow this link: www.hennepinatoz.org/azguide/household.html.

Drop-Off Facilities—Hennepin County has two year-round drop-off facilities where residents can get rid of recycling, electronics, appliances, and hazardous wastes, including TVs, computers, portable electronics and pesticides. There are fees for some items. For more information, go to www.hennepin.us/residents/recycling-hazardous-waste/drop-off-facilities.

Choose to Re-Use—Hennepin County's Choose to Re-Use Service allows you to donate used goods at nearly a dozen locations as well as save money buying products from them. Go to www.hennepin.us/residents/recycling-hazardous-waste/choose-to-reuse.

Fix-It Clinic—At Hennepin County's Fix-it-Clinics, you can bring in small household appliances, clothing, electronics, mobile devices, and more and receive free guided assistance from

volunteers with repair skills to disassemble, troubleshoot, and fix the items. You must be able to carry items in; no oversized items are accepted. For more information, go to www.hennepin.us/residents/recycling-hazardous-waste/fix-it-clinics.

If you can troubleshoot repairs for broken items, consider volunteering at a Fix-It Clinic. Volunteer fixers who have skills in soldering, electronics repair, electrical repair, sewing, and general tinkering are essential to making the clinics successful. Contact Nancy. Lo@hennepin.us or call 612-348-9195 for more details on volunteering.

Golden Valley will be hosting a Fix-It Clinic in December. Watch the City website and future newsletters for more details on Golden Valley's Fix-It Clinic. ~



Recycling Reminders

Mighty Tidy Day

Saturday, Oct 4, 8 am–1 pm @ Brookview Park

Unload unwanted items like old mattresses and sofas, broken bicycles, ancient appliances, old tires, outdated computers, televisions, and other things piling up around your home at Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day.

Fees apply. Details at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recycling/mightytidyday/index.php or in the September/October *CityNews*.

Fall Leaf Drop-Off

- Saturday, Oct 25, 8 am - 1 pm
 - Friday, Oct 31, 8 am - 4 pm
 - Saturday, Nov 1, 8 am - 1 pm
 - Saturday, Nov 8, 7 am - 1 pm
- @ Brookview Park

Provides residents a monitored site to dispose of their leaves at no charge. Details at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/yards/leaf-drop-off.php or in the September/October *CityNews*. ~

Golden Valley Recycles

GRAY Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Labor Day	Sat, Sept 6
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 29
Christmas	Sat, Dec 27

BLUE Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
New Year's 2015	Sat, Jan 3

Missed Pick Ups

If your recycling is missed on Friday, call Republic Services 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.

Identify & Manage Invasive Species

Information courtesy of the Minnesota DNR



Buckthorn

Tall shrub, multiple stems at base, purple berries, and dark, glossy, egg-shaped leaves with fine-toothed edges and pointed tips. Invades forests and wetlands, out-competes native plants, degrades wildlife habitat. **CONTROL**—Cut stems at ground level or pull them up. Treat cut stems with an herbicide or cover with black plastic to prevent resprouting. Seeds remain viable for several years. Removal requires ongoing treatments.



Garlic Mustard

Biennial with dark green leaf rosettes in first year and white four-petal flowers in May of second year, with leaves on alternate stems. Stems and leaves smell like garlic when crushed. Can totally dominate a woodland within 5–7 years. **CONTROL**—Pull up small infestations before flowers open and remove from the site. A larger patch may require prescribed burning. Seeds remain viable for several years, so bag plants (in paper) as you weed them and then burn, bury deeply in an area that will not be disturbed, or landfill. Let plants dry thoroughly before burning.



Canada Thistle

A rosette-shaped plant with a deep tap root, stems 2–5 feet high with small, purplish flowers throughout the summer, and clusters of tufted seeds distributed by winds and birds. **CONTROL**—Pulling them up will cause resprouting from pieces of remaining roots. Spring prescribed burning sets them back but may trigger plants to produce more seeds. Follow up by spot-spraying with herbicides, preferably during bud stage.



Reed Canary Grass

Hairless stems 2–6 feet high, tapering leaves up to 10 inches long and half-inch wide, and densely clustered green to purple florets that bloom in May/June and become beige as summer progresses. Found in wetlands and low-lying areas. First to green up in spring. **CONTROL**—Mowing in mid-June and Oct reduces seed production. In some situations, can be plowed up and reseeded with favorable species. Herbicide applications are most effective in fall. Prescribed burns may give native species a better advantage.



Spotted Knapweed

Thistle-like pink-purple flowers at tips of wiry stems 2–3 feet high. Blooms July–Sept. Biennial or short-lived perennial that reproduces with brown seeds topped with a tuft of bristles. Poisonous to neighboring plants. **CONTROL**—Pull up individual plants (wear long sleeves and gloves to avoid skin irritation), mow often to prevent seed production, or kill with very hot, prescribed burns.



Leafy Spurge

Perennial 2–3 feet high with smooth stems branching from a deep root and clusters of yellow flowers that bloom May–Sept. Stems, leaves, and flowers ooze milky white sap when broken. Seeds are expelled from a capsule and may travel up to 15 feet. Remain viable for years. Prospers in dry soils but will grow in a range of soil and shade conditions. **CONTROL**—Removal requires aggressive, repeated treatments. Most effective are herbicide applications (sometimes with prescribed burns) and biological control using root mining flea beetles.



Honeysuckle

Shrub 5–15 feet high, multiple stems, may form dense thickets. Older stems have shaggy bark and pithy interior. Smooth or downy leaves, small paired flowers bloom in May/June and are usually pink but may be white or red, distinctive red or yellow paired berries in summer. **CONTROL**—Can be pulled up, but this may expose seedbed. Prescribed burning will kill resulting seedlings and living tops of mature plants, but repeated burns are necessary.



Purple Loosestrife

Wand of pink-purple flowers with yellow centers, downy opposing leaves with smooth edges, may reach heights of six feet. Grows in wetlands, ditches, or along shorelines. **CONTROL**—Pull up small infestation by hand, preferably before seeds ripen. The DNR or county extension agent may provide control assistance for larger infestations.

Recreation Highlights

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

Youth

How To Draw Cartoons Art Camp (ages 5–12)—Mon–Tue, August 25–26, 1–3 pm. \$40/resident, \$47/nonresident. Register by Aug 15.

Junior Fall Soccer (grades K–1)—Sat, Sept 6–Oct 11, noon or 1 pm. \$35/resident, \$41/nonresident. Shirt: \$14. Register by Aug 4.

Youth Co-Rec Fall Soccer (grades 2–5)—Sat, Sept 6–Oct 11, game times TBA. \$35/resident, \$41/nonresident. Shirt: \$14. Register by Aug 1.

Seniors

Senior Lawn Bowling League—Tue, Sept 9–Oct 7, 10–11 am, Brookview Lawn Bowling Courts. Four weeks league play and tourney. Equipment provided. Register individually or as team of four. Min 16/Max 32. Register/cancel by Aug 29 at Brookview Golf, \$35/person. Kick-off demo first day, 9 am, Brookview Grill.

Matter of Balance Class—Tue, Sept 16–Nov 11 (no class Nov 4), 10 am–noon. Reduce your fear of falling and increase your strength, balance, and activity level. Register/cancel by Sept 5, \$20/person.

Joy of Painting® the Bob Ross® Method—Oct 11, 1–4:30 pm. No previous experience needed, all materials provided. Bring home a fall scene ready to frame. Min 5/Max 15, \$60/resident. Register/cancel by Oct 2.

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.



Brookview Lawn Bowling Gets Rolling In August

Construction has nearly wrapped on Golden Valley's new lawn bowling rinks at Brookview Golf Course, and the attraction is scheduled for a soft opening Aug 16 and 17, when residents will have a chance to try out the lanes for free.

"We're very excited about the grand opening and for providing these new amenities here at Brookview," says Rick Birno, parks and recreation director.

The eight lawn bowling rinks are on the north side of the Brookview Community Center and Golf Course building and will feature a fire pit and close proximity to food and beverages. Construction on the lanes began late last year.

"We were looking for new Brookview amenities for all ages," Birno says. "Lawn bowling is something that can be played by 12-year-olds and 85-year-olds alike."

Lawn bowling is similar, though not identical, to bocce ball. It is played on large, rectangular greens divided into parallel playing strips.

There are a limited number of lawn bowling rinks in the Metro Area, Birno says, and where they can be found, such as Brit's Pub in Minneapolis, people line up to play and reserve their spots months, sometimes years, in advance.

League play will begin Aug 18, and staff has been taking league registrations all summer, Birno says. There's still time to register by calling 763-512-2300 or visiting www.brookviewgolf.com/lawn-bowling/index.html.

The seven-week Monday-through-Thursday league fee will be \$350; for the Saturday and Sunday morning leagues it will be \$250. For those who want to do lawn bowling as a family or social activity, hourly lawn bowling rental will be \$15 for residents and Brookview golf patrons; \$20 for non-residents.

Birno says these fees will help pay off the construction costs of the lawn bowling site in about five years, and any revenue beyond that will go back into the golf course budget.

The new lawn bowling facility was planned and designed by Golden Valley City staff and will be managed by the Brookview Golf Course, which recently debuted a new food and beverage service, including beer, wine, and liquor options. 

City Considers New Community Center

Brookview Task Force Studies Options

Does Brookview Community Center meet Golden Valley's needs for recreation programming, meeting spaces, banquet facilities, and community gathering spots? How about the needs of its golf customers?

Brookview's original building dates to the 1920s, when it was a private golf club. The building has been expanded and remodeled several times over the years, and the question now is whether the City continues investing in maintenance of an aging structure or if it invests in a new facility that serves the needs of today's Golden Valley.

These are the issues before the Brookview Community Center Task Force, a group of citizens appointed by the City Council to develop a needs assessment and design proposal regarding construction of a new community center for Golden Valley. The Task Force is working with City staff and project consultants to study historical use patterns, community needs, and future program and revenue opportunities as well as gather new information before making a recommendation to the City Council.

The Community Center Task Force will meet six times with facilitation provided by consultant and staff representatives. Key steps in the process include:

- a building assessment of the current Brookview Community Center, including use patterns, issues, needs, and opportunities
- a visioning process to determine missing elements, needs, and goals and to imagine the ideal Golden Valley Community Center
- tours of similar concept community centers/golf operations, keeping in mind which amenities would potentially be a good fit for Golden Valley
- determination of priorities for a new Golden Valley Community Center



A citizen task force is studying whether Brookview Community Center is adequate for today's needs.

- review of three potential site locations
- development of four simple block design concepts on the three locations with approximate construction estimates
- check-in with the Council in September to narrow process to one design and one location
- preparation of the following for final recommendation to the Council:
 - final design, floor plans, and building rendering
 - location analysis
 - estimated construction budget, operation expenses, and annual revenues

Task Force members includes representatives from City Commissions, youth athletic associations, and Brookview Golf leagues. For more information or to follow the process online, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation/brookview/task-force.php.

Golf Classic Rescheduled To Sept 19

Due to rain, the 17th annual Golden Valley Golf Classic, sponsored by the Golden Valley Human Services Fund (GVHSF), has been rescheduled to Friday, Sept 19, at Brookview Golf Course, 200 Brookview Parkway. The fee for a foursome is \$300 if registered by September 15, which includes continental breakfast, 18-holes of golf, golf cart, buffet lunch, and prizes. Bring a second foursome, and both foursomes can golf for \$500 if registered together.

In 2013, the Golf Classic raised almost \$7,000. One hundred percent of the funds raised are distributed to community organizations that directly serve the Golden Valley community (see page 3).

Corporate and hole sponsors are always welcome! For information or to register, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/golfclassic/index.php or call Jeanne at 763-512-2340.

PHOTO BY AMY LOVGREN



22nd Annual Photo Contest Celebrates Golden Valley

Personified dragonflies took the top two spots in the *Views of the Valley* contest this year. Four judges ranked Jeff Lamberg's "Looking for a Strike" and "Let's Shake On It" as the first- and second-place winners out of 59 entries. The glare of an owl took the People's Choice award; the red, white and blue of the American flag contrasted with black and white took first place in the Enhanced category; and a dancer's silhouette against a sunset took first place in the Lifestyle category. Judges were Dennis Zerwas Jr, a professional photographer (dzpics.com); Emilie Kastner, City of Plymouth communications specialist; Ann Gallagher, reporter with Cable 12 News; and Sarah Larson, West Metro Fire-Rescue fire chief and former professional photographer. ~



FIRST PLACE NATURAL GOLDEN VALLEY & OVERALL GRAND PRIZE WINNER

Looking For A Strike • Jeff Lamberg



Next year's *Views of the Valley*
Photo Contest deadline
will be June 12, 2015.

**NATURAL GOLDEN VALLEY
HONORABLE MENTION**

Let's Shake On It : Jeff Lamberg

NATURAL GOLDEN VALLEY

PEOPLE'S CHOICE



PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

Glare : Jacob Condon



FIRST PLACE ENHANCED GOLDEN VALLEY

Tribute To The Fallen : Alyssa Euteneuer

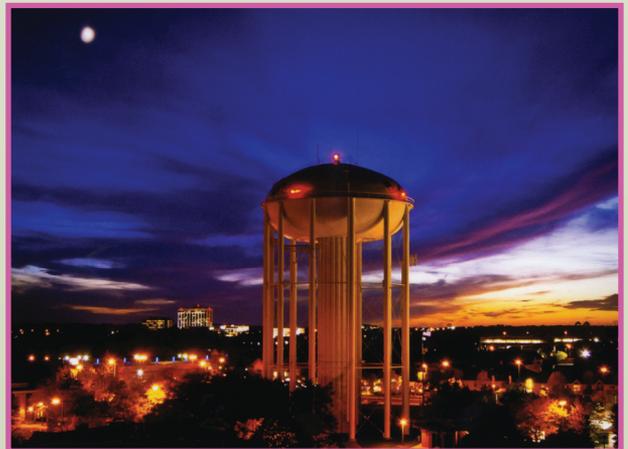
ENHANCED GOLDEN VALLEY

GOLDEN VALLEY LIFESTYLE



FIRST PLACE GOLDEN VALLEY LIFESTYLE

Joy : Sonia Mohammadzadah

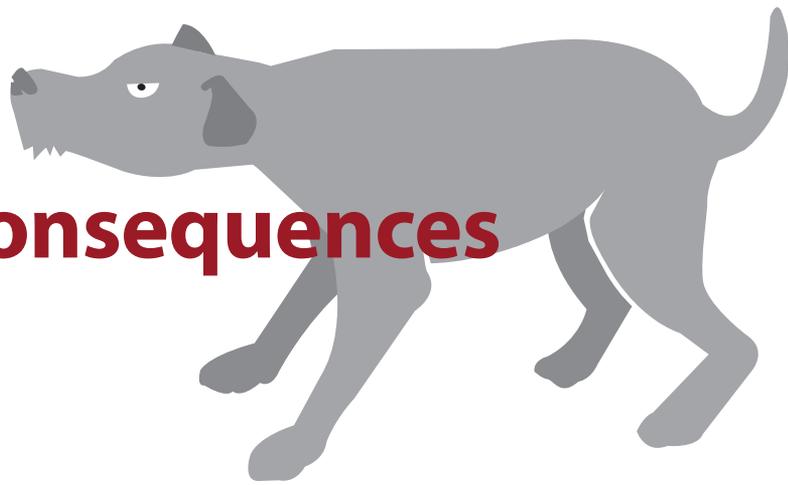


GOLDEN VALLEY LIFESTYLE HONORABLE MENTION

From The Rooftops : Andrew Fitzsimmons

DOG BITES:

Prevention And Consequences



There were 10 reported dog bites—five of humans and five of other dogs—in Golden Valley this spring, more than the last two years combined.

One of the major causes of dog bites is when owners take their pets off leash and put too much trust in how their dogs will behave, says Joanne Paul, crime prevention specialist.

The law states if the dog is off leash in a public area, it has to respond to voice commands that are as effective as if it were on a leash.

“I have yet to see that happen,” Paul says.

Prevention

Almost all reported dog bites have been from dogs that were loose, either when their owner let them off leash or when they were not adequately contained and broke free of their yards.

There have been a few cases where a leashed dog bit another dog (again, a result of the owner having too much trust in the dog’s behavior), but the more serious occurrences are when the dogs are loose, Paul says.

The two best things to prevent dogs biting other dogs or humans are to keep them properly contained in a yard and on a leash at all times in public, and to take them to training so their behavior becomes more manageable.

Consequences

Pet owners are required to report dog bites (whether to humans or other animals) to the local police department. The owner is then required to show proof of rabies vaccination. If proof of

vaccination cannot be provided, the City will quarantine the dog at animal impound for 10 days. If proof can be provided, the dog is allowed to be quarantined at home.

Depending on the situation, police may deem the dog as dangerous or potentially dangerous. Potentially dangerous dogs must have a microchip implanted, a properly constructed enclosure in their yard, and be licensed with the City as a potentially dangerous dog. Police may deem dogs as dangerous if they are repeat offenders or if the bite situation is particularly serious. Owners of dangerous dogs must follow all of the stipulations for potentially dangerous dogs, post a sign on their property declaring the presence of a dangerous dog, and purchase liability insurance for up to \$300,000.

Many owners can’t afford that, Paul says, at which point they have to decide to either relocate their dog or put it to sleep.

“We don’t want it to come to that,” Paul says. “We want to work with the owners to encourage them to get the dog more training.”

Owners of dogs labeled dangerous or potentially dangerous can appeal the decision if he or she can prove that, through training, the dog has changed its behavior.

“I’m a dog lover, so I want everyone to have a pet,” Paul says. “I think they’re awesome. But I also want everyone to be responsible pet owners.”

2014 Citizen's Police Academy

Tues, Sept 16–Oct 28, 6–9 pm
Golden Valley Police Department

Go behind the scenes at the Golden Valley Police Department. Get applications at the Police Department (7800 Golden Valley Rd) or at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/police/gvpdu.

Tuition is free! Seven-week course covers:

- 911 Dispatch Center
- Police Investigations
- Crime Analysis
- Hennepin County Crime Lab
- Hennepin County Canine Unit

- NW Metro Drug Task Force
- SWAT Team
- Use of Force
- Patrol Operations

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

Four Fires Teach Valuable Lessons

This spring the Golden Valley Fire Department responded to four potentially fatal cooking fires within weeks of each other. While no one was seriously hurt, the fires demonstrated some valuable lessons of what to do and what not to do while cooking. Details are kept vague to protect the identities of those involved.

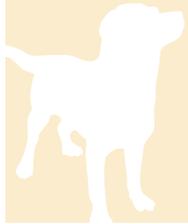
Case Of The Counter-Surfing Dog

At about 10 pm, a resident was alerted when his smoke alarm began sounding. As smoke built up inside, he and his dog got out of the house and he called 911. By the time firefighters arrived, smoke and fire were billowing out of the kitchen.

It turns out that while the man rested, his large dog had “surfied” the kitchen counter tops and accidentally turned on a stove burner switch, which ignited combustible material sitting on the stove top. By the time the man was alerted, the fire was out of control. His home sustained about \$70,000 in damages.

Lessons Learned

- Make sure your smoke detectors are working. In this situation, the man and his dog may not have gotten out in time without being alerted by the detectors. The house was very close to “flashing over,” which means reaching a temperature that makes the entire interior burst into flame.
- Dogs, like children, get curious. If there are easily accessible knobs on your stove, consider covering them when you’re not there or closing off the kitchen to pets entirely.
- Stove tops are not counter tops. Plastic ware, paper towels, olive oil, pizza boxes, and more can all flame up in seconds if a burner happens to turn on. It’s likely this situation would not have escalated if the stove top had been clear.



Case Of The Intoxicated Cook

Firefighters responded at 3 am to heavy smoke pouring from an apartment building. In one apartment, a pan of food had burned on the stove top, turning the food into a chunk of charcoal and causing thick smoke. The apartment resident, who was outside when firefighters arrived, had been cooking while intoxicated, left the food on the stove with the burner on, and then fell asleep in another room.

Lessons Learned

- Avoid cooking while intoxicated, and understand your limitations in any situation. For example, if you know you easily fall asleep when tired, then don’t cook when you’re tired. The kitchen is the most dangerous place in your house and should never be treated casually.
- Never leave food unattended when it’s cooking. Often people will pop something in the oven to warm it up and then take a nap. That can be disastrous.



Case Of The Tupperware™ Scare

Firefighters arrived to an apartment building full of acrid smoke spilling from a single unit. The resident had turned on the oven to preheat it, and plastic ware stored inside caught fire and generated smoke. When the resident opened the oven door to put out the fire, the rush of air enlarged the flame. The resident then tried to extinguish the fire with a wet towel, but the towel burst into flames, causing more toxic smoke. A maintenance worker who tried to help ended up unnecessarily exposing himself to toxic smoke. As the resident left the apartment, the door got hung up on a floor mat, releasing large amounts of toxic smoke into the hallway.

Lessons Learned

- Never use your oven for storage.
- If a fire starts inside your oven, do not open the oven door. That appliance is built to withstand incredible amounts of heat. Simply turn off the heat source, leave the door closed and call 911, and the fire should go out on its own.
- Smoke is extremely dangerous. Just a few breaths of toxic smoke can permanently damage your lungs. If smoke is billowing out of your kitchen, do not try to put out the fire. Leave immediately and call 911.
- If you insist on putting a fire out on your own, before you do so, call 911, then use a fire extinguisher. If the fire isn’t immediately contained at that point, leave it and get outside. People underestimate how quickly things escalate when fire is involved. They also tend not to call 911 soon enough.



Case Of The Mis-entered Microwave Time

An apartment resident had punched the wrong number into the microwave and left a small personal pizza cooking for 30 minutes. It burnt it so completely that, like in the above situation, the whole building was full of smoke.

Lessons Learned

- Be attentive in the kitchen. Something as simple as entering the wrong number on the microwave can cause a fire and the entire building to be evacuated.
- Do not leave cooking food unattended. Unattended cooking is the main cause of structure fires.



I/I Update

Rainfalls Increase Wastewater Output, But Overall Trends Drop

This year's record rainfalls have had a major impact on Golden Valley's storm sewers and water treatment budgets. The ground is saturated so thoroughly in some areas that water is less than 4 feet from the surface (depending on location, the norm this time of year is about 8 to 10 feet from the surface). Higher than average groundwater levels can put immense pressure on underground utilities and create I/I concerns.

However, due to the City's ongoing effort to reduce inflow and infiltration (I/I), these potential impacts have been greatly reduced. Nearly 40 percent of properties in the City are I/I compliant since the reduction program was implemented in 2007.

What Is I/I?

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.

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 result is sewer backups in homes, discharges into rivers and other water bodies, and increased costs for needlessly putting clear water through the wastewater treatment process.

To combat the growing problem, in 2007 the City Council approved a point of sale inspection program, which requires properties to pass a sanitary sewer inspection before being

offered for sale or transferred to a new owner. Now in its eighth year, the program has resulted in significant decreases in Golden Valley's I/I.

While people are not required to make their homes I/I compliant until they plan to sell, it can help to do it sooner than later, says Mitch Hoeft, Golden Valley engineer.

"With time, these things only become more expensive," he says. "By taking action now, when your system is in better shape, you save time and cost on the repair. The more run down your system gets, the harder it becomes to make it I/I compliant."

Tracking I/I Progress

Tracking I/I progress can be difficult when annual precipitation fluctuates so dramatically, but when data is analyzed over several years, trends show a clear decrease in the flow of wastewater. On average, Golden Valley now treats about 400 million fewer gallons of wastewater than it did in 2001. Although this year's record rains caused an increase in flow, the overall trend continues to drop.

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

For all other I/I inspections, 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. 

Winnetka Streetscape To Get Fall Facelift



The paver brick sidewalks along Winnetka Ave from Hwy 55 to 10th Ave are showing their age and will be replaced this fall.

This August, the City will begin reconstruction of Winnetka Ave's sidewalks from Hwy 55 to 10th Ave. The current paver brick sidewalks were installed as part of the Winnetka Ave reconstruction project in 1994-95.

Crews will replace the paver bricks with concrete that's easier to maintain, more accessible, and smoother to traverse for those using wheelchairs. The concrete will also be infused with color to boost the street's aesthetic appeal.

"These new sidewalks will be safer, make the downtown area look nicer, and be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act standards," says RJ Kakach, Golden Valley engineer.

The project will be partially funded with a grant from Hennepin County. Work will not require Winnetka Ave to close down entirely, though it will cause some delays. The project will take two months to complete and should wrap up in October. Questions? Contact the Engineering/Maintenance Department at 763-593-8030. 



Exterior Property Maintenance Inspections Begin Citywide

Rather than waiting until people complain about neighborhood property concerns, the City's two property maintenance inspectors will be conducting proactive citywide inspections this summer. The goal is to inspect the outside of every home in Golden Valley over the next year, and then cycle back and do it again in an ongoing effort to keep homes in the best shape possible. Inspections will be done from the sidewalk or street.

Proper maintenance increases the value of your home and the homes around you, says inspector Dave Gustafson. It's part of being a good neighbor.

Bad siding, storm damaged roofs, broken windows, unkempt yards, illegal building extensions, peeling paint, rickety decks—no matter the source of the problem, when people let their homes go, it can have a twofold negative affect, Gustafson, says.

First, poorly maintained homes are an eyesore, which annoys neighbors and can keep potential home buyers looking in other areas, dropping housing values. Second, a poorly maintained home can set off a chain reaction.

A common complaint every year is “why do I have to keep my property up if my neighbor does not?” You are more inclined to keep your home looking nice if your neighbors are already doing so, Gustafson says.

With so many metro area homes built before 1970, property maintenance standards are a growing priority for cities. In 2006 Golden Valley adopted a property maintenance code that was complaint-based, wherein inspectors would receive a complaint and take appropriate action. Now, in 2014, Gustafson and fellow inspector Don Nutter will be taking a more active approach by heading out on foot and inspecting all properties to correct problems before they become complaints.

“We want to stay ahead of it, not play catch up,” Gustafson says.

Golden Valley's approach is to help residents become aware of and take care of violations before they get out of hand. The benefits are both aesthetic and economic—a well-maintained housing stock helps bring potential home buyers to the neighborhood.

If you're overwhelmed with property maintenance issues or unsure of how to handle a particular issue, contact the City's property maintenance office at 763-593-8057. Inspectors will set up an appointment to stop by, take a look, and perhaps provide suggestions. They will also help educate residents as they meet them.

“We want to help residents,” Gustafson says. “We'd rather work with homeowners to fix the problems than have to write up violations.”

Snowbirds Should Plan Ahead

If you plan on heading south for the winter, it's not too soon to think about how to keep your house protected when you're gone.

The best thing you can do is arrange to have another person look after your home, says David Gustafson, fire/property maintenance specialist.

You'll need someone to shovel the sidewalk if it snows, collect the mail, and if they're not staying

at the home, to at least make it look like it's occupied. Mail that's piling up outside a home is like a welcome sign to burglars, Gustafson says.

Lastly, remember to keep your heat at 50 degrees. Lower than that and the pipes will freeze and cause flooding inside the home.



Be Patient In Construction Zones

Everyone's Safety Is At Stake



There's a reason traffic fines are doubled in construction zones. Fatalities in road construction and maintenance work zones averaged 669 per year from 2007 through 2012, according to the Centers for Disease Control. That's why safe

driving through construction zones should be a priority for everyone, no matter how inconvenienced or agitated they feel by the delays.

Roadway work zones are wherever workers, flaggers, or surveyors are visible in bright yellow-green or orange vests, or where there are marked orange cones or barrels, concrete barriers, traf-

fic control devices, or moving vehicles with flashers. Roadway construction may be operating both day and night.

During the past five years, crashes in work zones have caused more than 4,400 deaths (85 percent of which were drivers or passengers), according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). Rear-end collisions are the most common type of work zone crash.

The main causes of work zone crashes, says MnDOT, are drivers speeding and not paying attention. For safety's sake, MnDOT suggests drivers stay alert (especially at night), obey posted speed limits, and stay off cell phones. Expect that work zones will constantly change. When driving in a work zone, avoid unnecessary lane changes and never enter a road blocked with barriers or cones. Above all, be patient. Many lives are at stake, including your own. 

Tips For Safer Work Zone Driving

Courtesy of the Federal Highway Administration

- Dedicate your full attention to the roadway.
- Avoid changing the radio station, eating, or other distractions that can remove your concentration from the road.
- Avoid using your cell phone.
- Keep your headlights on.
- Watch brake lights on vehicles ahead and maintain a safe following distance. Don't tailgate.
- Watch traffic around you and be prepared to react.
- Merge into the proper lane well before you reach the lane closure point.
- Be aware that traffic patterns can change daily.
- Stay well within the speed limit.
- Follow instructions from flaggers.
- Remember, workers, work vehicles, or equipment may enter your lane without warning.
- Remember, other vehicles may slow, stop, or change lanes unexpectedly.
- As difficult as it may be while stuck in traffic, be patient.

Council Considers Proposed Winter Parking Ordinance



At its Aug 6 meeting, the City Council will consider amending the City Code to clarify existing winter parking restrictions and implement a new citywide winter parking restriction.

The first revision to City Code Section 9.07, Winter Parking Restrictions, recog-

nizes that extended snow events can result in the need to continue parking restrictions while City crews plow streets multiple times during a single snow storm. The proposed Snow Emergency subdivision reads: "After a snowfall of at least 2 inches, parking is prohibited on any public street or alley. Parking may not resume

on any such street or alley until the snow has stopped accumulating and the same street or alley has been plowed with the snow removed to the curb line or edge of the street or alley."

The biggest revision to the Code would prohibit parking on public streets and alleys Nov 1–March 31 from midnight–6 am daily. This change was based on residents expressing concerns about safety and how parked vehicles impact snow and ice removal.

The City anticipates that special circumstances will result in requests for temporary exemptions to the restrictions. Staff will review such requests on a case-by-case basis and make reasonable temporary accommodations where appropriate. 



PHOTO BY JSTAR INSPIRATIONS

UPCOMING events

Movie In The Park

Aug 14 | 8:30 pm

Enjoy “The Lego Movie” under the stars on a giant inflatable screen in beautiful Brookview Park. More information at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation/youth/special-events.

Battle of the Badges Community Blood Drive

Wed, Aug 20 | 1–5 pm

(see page 16)

HRC NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE AND REMEMBRANCE

Thur, Sept 11 | 6–8 pm

Second Harvest Heartland WEST

6325 Sandburg Rd, Suite 1700

Help sort and re-pack food for local food shelves and soup kitchens that serve people at risk for hunger. More at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/boards/humanrights/hrc-conversations.

Citizen’s Police Academy

Tues, Sept 16–Oct 28 | 6–9 pm

(see page 10)

Coffee With A Cop

Wed, Sept 24 | 9–11 am

Brookview Community Center

Drop in to chat with a Golden Valley police officer.

City Council Neighborhood Meeting

Sept 30 | 7–8:30 pm

Chester Bird American Legion Post 523, 200 N Lilac Dr

Stop by for informal discussion with a council member.

Mighty Tidy Day

Sat, Oct 4 | 8 am–1 pm (see page 4)

HRC CONVERSATIONS: MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

Thurs, Oct 9 | 6:30 pm

City Hall Council Chambers

Program on adults and mental illness, featuring guest speaker Ken Barlow. Hosted by Golden Valley Human Rights Commission, HRC Conversations brings the community together for dialogue on current human rights issues.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ANNUAL MEETING

Thur, Oct 23 | 7 pm

GVPD Training Room, 7800 Golden Valley Rd

One of two annual Neighborhood Watch meetings per year. Includes a crime prevention refresher, an update on crime patterns and trends in Golden Valley, and more. More information at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/police/watch/index.php.

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

LILAC PLANTING PARTY

Sat, Sept 27

Area east and west of Schaper Dr

8:30–9 am: Registration

9 am–1 pm: Planting

1–2 pm: Celebration Lunch

Help the City of Golden Valley continue to implement a vision of lilacs, shrubs, and flowers along the sides of Hwy 55 through Golden Valley. This partnership with

the Minnesota Department of Transportation’s Community Roadside Landscaping Partnership Program is in its eighth year. Come on your own, or gather a group from your neighborhood, church, business, or club. Register online at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/lilacplanting/index.php or with Volunteer Coordinator Sandy Werts at 763-512-2314.





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ELECTION DAY

VOTE IN YOUR PRECINCT

- **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

For 2014, primary election day is Aug 12
and general election day is Nov 4. Polls
are open 7 am–8 pm.

Community Blood Drive

Wednesday, August 20 | 1–5 pm
7800 Golden Valley Rd
Check in at the Public Safety Building



In November 2000, Edina Police Officer Mike Blood was shot multiple times at close range by a bank robber with an assault rifle. He needed 19 operations and 120 units of blood and spent a year in the hospital. Thanks to a supply of blood donated by others, he had a chance to recover.

Memorial Blood Centers' Battle of the Badges challenges Fire and Police Departments from across the metropolitan area in a friendly competition to save and sustain lives through blood donation. Golden Valley is showing support by hosting a community blood drive Aug 20. Support your Golden Valley Fire and Police Departments in Battle of the Badges by donating.

Schedule your donation at www.mbc.org/searchdrives and enter sponsor code 4078. Or contact Ann at 651-332-7165 or aevans@mbc.org. On the day of your donation, complete your health history questionnaire online at www.mbc.org/idonate.

Volunteer Opportunities



Mighty Tidy Day

Sat, Oct 4, 8 am–1 pm | Brookview Park

Help unload and load furniture, food, and household goods for Bridging and Prism at the Mighty Tidy Day Donation Lot. Some lifting required. Work the entire shift or 2 1/2-hour shifts (8–10:30 am or 10:30 am–1 pm).



Pre-School Playtime @ Brookview

Fridays, Oct 3–March 27, 9:45–11:45 am (schedule is flexible).

Fun physical activity for children ages 1 to 5 (with an adult). Greet and interact with kids, introduce adults and kids to activities using the equipment, read to the children, and help with fee collection, set-up, and clean-up.

To sign up, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/community/volunteers/index.php or contact Volunteer Coordinator Sandy Werts at 763-512-2341.



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.

