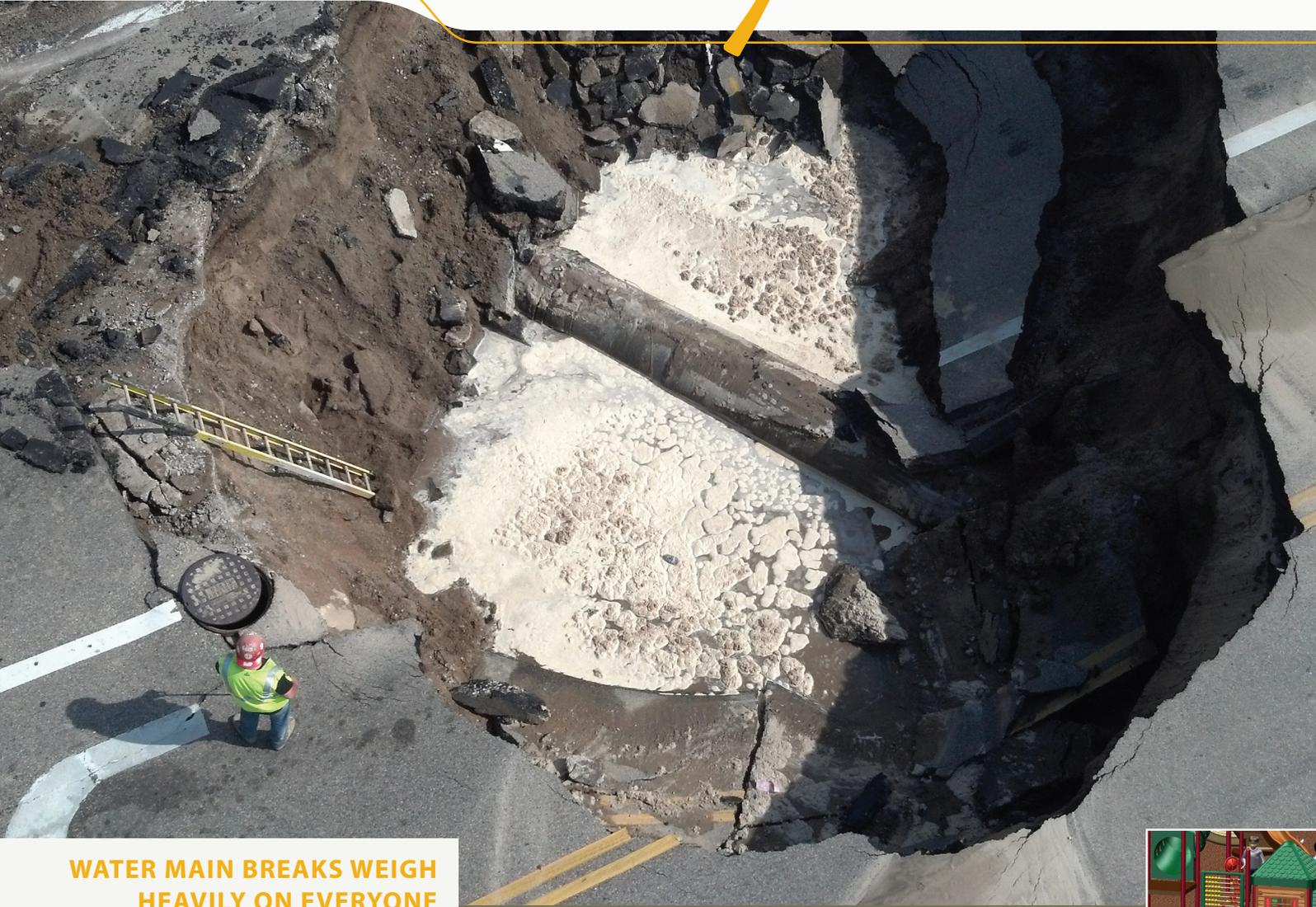




# cityNEWS



## WATER MAIN BREAKS WEIGH HEAVILY ON EVERYONE

Water main breaks are a fact of life in Minnesota and critical incidents for Cities. Learn how Golden Valley manages.

**SEE PAGES 8-9**

Photo by Hennepin County.

## SPRING FLOODING—ASSESS YOUR RISK AND TAKE ACTION

Many Golden Valley residents are already prepared for potential flooding. Are you?

**SEE PAGES 5**

## [in this] ISSUE

Views Of The Valley Photo Contest • **03**

City Of Golden Valley Is On Facebook • **07**

GVPD Recruits 'Everyday' People • **11**

City Invests In Infrastructure • **12**



# cityHEADLINES

## City Utility Bills

### New Ways To Pay And Manage Your Account

City of Golden Valley utility bills include charges for water usage, sanitary sewer, street lights, storm drainage, and recycling. Utility bills are mailed quarterly for residential and monthly for commercial. You can pay by mail or in person, or sign up for automatic payment. Last fall the City rolled out an electronic billing option so customers could pay and manage their bills online (see box below).

#### By Mail Or In-Person

Tear off the top half of your bill and mail it to the City of Golden Valley (see address on the right side of the bill) or put it in the drop box located near the front door of City Hall along with a check or cash (no credit cards).

#### Recurring Automatic Payment Plan

To pay your utility bill automatically, complete an authorization form and return it with a voided check (for checking accounts) or deposit slip (for savings accounts) to City Hall. The form is available at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/utilities/pdf/utility-billing-auto-enrollment.pdf](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/utilities/pdf/utility-billing-auto-enrollment.pdf). Make sure both the bank and individual account routing numbers, located at the bottom of the check

or deposit slip (for example: :091400046:200030119), are visible. **You will also receive a \$1 credit on each bill.**

#### Non-Recurring Payment By Credit Card

You can make an online payment using your 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 (see box below for details).

#### Payment Deadlines

Keep in mind all payments must be received on or before the date listed (postmark date is not acceptable) to avoid a 10 percent penalty fee.

Detailed information about City utility billing is available on the City website at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/utilities/understanding-bill.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/utilities/understanding-bill.php).



### Register for Electronic Utility Billing (EUB)

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

Online payments made using a credit or debit card are NON-RECURRING, 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.

After you link to EUB:

- Click on "Register."
- Create a user name.
- Fill out your personal information and the best email at which to reach you.

- Select a secure password.
- Enter your account number, including any leading zeros (appears at the top of your utility billing statement).
- Enter your customer number, again including zeros (appears at the top of your utility billing statement).
- Receive eBills (optional): Check this box if you want to receive email notifications when your utility bill is ready for viewing. If you choose this option, you will no longer get a bill in the mail via the US Postal Service.
- Enter your phone number.
- Type in the displayed security code.
- Click "Register."

Check your email address for the verification code, and log into the site. Note: You may want to save/print this email for your records to retain your user name and password.

Questions? Call the City at 763-593-8013.

# Think You're The Best Photographer In Town? Enter *Views of the Valley*

## Photo Contest Deadline Is June 6

Calling all photographers and photography lovers—help promote Golden Valley and civic pride by participating in the 22nd annual Views of the Valley photo contest. Enter your best work, vote for your favorite photo in the People's Choice award category, or both.

To enter, submit your favorite photos (see rules below). The entry form on this page can be photocopied or downloaded at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/photocontest/](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/photocontest/).

Entry deadline is June 6, 2014, at 4:30 pm. Mail or drop off completed entries to Photo Contest, City of Golden Valley, 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427. Photo entries become the property of the City of Golden Valley and will not be returned. City employees and their families are not eligible to enter.

### Contest Prizes

A panel of judges evaluates each entry on subject matter, composition, clarity, lighting, depth of field, artistry/drama, degree of difficulty, technical excellence, and overall impact.

Winners in each of the three categories receive \$50, overall grand prize winner receives \$50, and People's Choice winner receives \$25. All winners are published on the City website and in *CityNews* and receive certificates of appreciation.

Photo entries will be displayed at City Hall and on the City website. From June 10–24, Golden Valley residents may vote for the People's Choice award at City Hall during business hours

(8 am–4:30 pm, Monday–Friday) or online at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov). Winners will be notified in early July. Questions? Call 763-593-8004. 

## CONTEST RULES



- You must be a Golden Valley resident.
- Submit each photo in one of three categories:
  - Natural Golden Valley (landscapes, flora, fauna, etc)
  - Golden Valley Lifestyle (cityscapes, buildings, people, activities, etc)
  - Enhanced (photos significantly altered by editing software, lenses, etc—on the entry form, explain what alterations were made to each enhanced photo)
- Submit up to three color or black-and-white photos.
  - All photos must be trimmed to 5x7.
  - Do not submit slides, photocopies, or prints not on photo-quality paper.
  - Digital files must be accompanied by a print on photo-quality paper.
  - Do not mat or frame photos.
  - Include complete entry information for each photo (see form). Be sure to indicate the category.
- All entries submitted must be your own work.
- All decisions will be final, and judges reserve the right not to award in any category.
- The City of Golden Valley will not be responsible for lost entries.
- The contest organizers reserve the right to re-categorize or disqualify any entries.
- If there are identifiable people in the photo and it was taken in a non-public space, it is the responsibility of the photographer to obtain permission to use the photo.
- **Deadline is June 6, 2014, 4:30 pm.**

## ENTRY FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Age (if under 18) \_\_\_\_\_

Category:  Natural Golden Valley  Golden Valley Lifestyle  
 Enhanced\*

Title of Photo \_\_\_\_\_

\*Enhancement Explanation \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I agree to let the City of Golden Valley publish my photo(s) in City publications with proper credit.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

All photo entries become the property of the City of Golden Valley and will not be returned.

# Stack Those Sticks!

## Spring Brush Pick-Up Is April 28 To May 12

Clear the way for spring and take part in Golden Valley's annual residential Spring Brush Pick-Up. The pick-up, running from April 28 to May 12, gives you the opportunity to place tree limbs and brush at your curb for collection and disposal.

### Pick Up Schedule

The City will be divided into three sections (see below), with a week designated for pick-up in each. **Brush must be placed on the curb by 8 am Monday the week of pick-up.** If there is a lot of brush, pick-up may take longer than a week.

#### Section 1: Week of April 28

Area north of Hwy 55 and west of Douglas Dr

#### Section 2: Week of May 5

Area north of Hwy 55 and east of Douglas Dr

#### Section 3: Week of May 12

Area south of Hwy 55

### Guidelines

Please observe the following guidelines when preparing your brush for pick-up:

- Tree limbs and brush must be four inches in diameter or less and approximately six feet long or less.
- Stack brush so the larger ends face the street (do NOT tie limbs together).

- Condense brush to one pile per household. **Trucks will stop only once at each property**, so if there is more than one pile, only one will be picked up.
- Do not use plastic bags.
- Place brush and limbs on the boulevard completely clear of sidewalks, mailboxes, streetlights and sign poles, landscaping and fences, overhead tree branches, and power lines. If piles don't fit between the curb and sidewalk, place them on the boulevard behind the sidewalk. The contractor uses trucks with automated loading arms to pick up the brush piles. If your brush is stacked near a restricted area or tossed in a pile rather than stacked, it will be left behind.
- No leaves, grass clippings, stumps, soil, roots, limbs exceeding the size limits, building lumber, landscape timbers, or bags of garbage will be picked up. If any of these items are mixed in the brush stacks, the entire stack will be left behind. The contractor will not sort through brush stacks for acceptable material.

To dispose of brush or tree waste not collected in this pick-up, contact your garbage hauler or choose another contractor.

The Spring Curbside Brush Pick-Up is a component of the Golden Valley recycling program. If you have questions about the residential brush pick-up program, call 763-593-8030 or visit [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/yards/brush-pick-up.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/yards/brush-pick-up.php).

## Golden Valley Recycles

### GRAY Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Memorial Day	Sat, May 31
Labor Day	Sat, Sept 6
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 29
Christmas	Sat, Dec 27

### BLUE Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Fourth of July	Sat, July 5
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.*



To sign up to receive emailed recycling updates and reminders, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe).

# Ready For Potential Spring Flooding?

## Assess Your Risk And Take Action

Many Golden Valley residents are already prepared for potential flooding. Those with homes near a flood plain have likely flood-proofed their homes and purchased flood insurance, protecting themselves from costly damage. If you don't know if your home or business is at risk for flooding and how to take action to prevent flood damage, now is a good time to find out.

### What The City Does

The City of Golden Valley has been working to manage flooding for decades. In 1969 the City joined seven western suburbs and Minneapolis to form an organization that later became the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC). As a result, flood control structures on Bassett Creek protect houses, businesses, and public infrastructure from flooding. After heavy rains and during spring snow melt, Brookview Golf Course is one of several areas that serves as a flood water storage area to prevent Bassett Creek from overtopping its banks.

### What You Can Do

First, check with your insurance agent to find out if your property is in a flood plain or if you need flood insurance. The City can also provide flood plain information for a small fee. City engineers and building inspectors can offer technical advice about flooding and drainage issues at no charge. Call 763-593-8030 for an appointment.

City Water Resources Engineer Joe Fox says one of the biggest mistakes people make in regard to flooding is assuming their homeowner's insurance covers flood damages. It doesn't always. Even residents who live outside a flood plain could benefit from flood insurance.

"Twenty five percent of all flood damage claims come from areas outside the flood plain," Fox says. "Most homeowner's insurance

doesn't cover flood damage. You have to buy flood insurance specifically."

The cost of flood insurance for those outside a flood plain is about \$129 a year, Fox adds, but if you get water in your house, that could cause \$20,000 or more in damages. And keep in mind there's a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance kicks in.

Besides buying flood insurance, there are other things you can do to protect your home against flooding (see box below). If you have questions about flooding issues in Golden Valley, contact Public Works at 763-593-8030. 

### Flood Protection Tips

- Landscape your yard so surface water flows away from your home.
- Clean gutters and make sure eaves and downspouts are functional and pointing away from your home.
- Make sure your sump pump is working, and install a battery-operated backup, in case of a power failure.
- Install a water alarm to let you know if water is accumulating in your basement
- Move furniture, valuables, and important documents to a safe place
- Create a personal flood file containing information about all your possessions, a copy of your insurance policy with your agent's information, and copies of all other critical documents, and keep it in a secure place, such as a safety deposit box or waterproof container.

## City To Hear Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan

Every year the City of Golden Valley is required to report on how it is managing storm water discharge to reduce sediment and pollution loading in receiving waters. The process is called the Phase II National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit, and it requires significant planning by the City, including a public meeting with the City Council (this year set for June 3 at 7 pm).

All communities with more than 10,000 people are federally mandated to get the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

permit. The June 3 City Council meeting will give the public a chance to share comments on the plan. All written comments should be received no later than 4:30 pm the day of the meeting. Forward comments to: City of Golden Valley, Attn: Joe Fox, 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427.

A copy of the plan is available at the Public Works Department in City Hall. For more information, contact Fox at 763-593-8044. 

# Recreation Highlights

Complete list in the Winter Recreation Activities Brochure or at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation).

## Youth

**Indoor Nerf Soccer** (ages 3–4 or 5–7)—Thurs, April 10–May 15, at Davis Community Center.

**Kids Club** (ages 3–5)—Starts April 7 & 8, Mon/Wed or Tues/Thurs, 9:30–11 am, Brookview, \$45 resident.

## Adult

**Adult Co-Rec Sand Volleyball League**—Tues evenings at Brookview Park, May 20–July 29; \$200 resident/\$220 non-resident. Packets available on City website.

## Seniors

**Money Matters**—April 17: “Managing Your Taxes: Use the Opportunities in Current Tax Laws” 10–11:15 am, Brookview. Donation for refreshments.

**Senior Par 3 Golf League Kick-Off**—April 17, 10:30 am, Brookview Community Center. Learn about the Senior Golf League. Refreshments! Door prizes! \$5 league registration at door.

**2014 Senior Spring Forum**—April 23, 8:30 am–noon, Brooklyn Park Community Center, 5600 85th Ave N. “Why Should Kids Have All the Fun?” Speaker: Bobby Jensen, KARE 11. Coffee, treats, information booths. Pre-register at 763-503-2520 or [info@nwhhsc.org](mailto:info@nwhhsc.org). Sponsored by NW Hennepin Human Services Council and Senior Leadership Committee.

**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.



## Five Playgrounds To Get New Equipment

Five Golden Valley playgrounds will be replaced with new, better structures this summer: Lions, Gearty, Wildwood, Glenview, and Brookview.

Last year’s annual safety audit of park play structures found the playgrounds in need of repair or replacement due to age and extensive use. The City received multiple grants and fiscal partnerships to help cover the costs and lower the impact on taxpayers.

### Brookview Park

To help pay for the playground replacement at Brookview, the City received a \$72,000 grant from Gametime Playground Company. The extra funding made it easier to meet residents’ hopes and expectations for the playground, including multi-level play structures and a misting water feature. It also allowed funds to spill over into replacement projects for other parks. The new playground will be ready for use May 23, just in time for Memorial Day weekend.

### Lions Park

In January, families in the Lions Park neighborhood met to select their preference for new a playground. They chose bright, primary colored structures with many more play features than the old playground, including a stump climber, wobble sphere, track ride, tube slide, and a curly-Q slide (see drawing above).

The old structure will be demolished this spring, and the new structure will be installed the week of June 9.

### Wildwood Park

Wildwood Park will be redesigned and replaced in a partnership between the City, and the Robbinsdale School District 281/SEA School, who each committed \$15,000 to the project. In addition, the project received a \$50,000 grant from the Hennepin Youth Sports Grant Program.

Parks and Recreation Director Rick Birno says without the grant from Hennepin County, the project would likely not have moved forward. The new playground will include natural boulders, Golden Valley’s first zip-line, expanded swings, outdoor play education panels, multiple slides, bridges, and a climbing wall. It will be installed by volunteers Sat, May 17. If you would like to help, contact the SEA School at 763-504-7203.

### Gearty and Glenview Parks

Neighbors of Gearty and Glenview Parks met in early March to select their new playground structures. The new Gearty Park playground will feature a track ride, gatorwalk, hypersonic slide, wobble sphere, roundabout challenge ladder, and more. Installation is scheduled the week of July 14.

The new Glenview Park playground will have a soft twist spinner, web rope climber, mountain top climber spiral slide, viper slide, and more. Installation is scheduled for the week of Aug 11.

Questions? Contact Parks and Recreation at 763-593-2345. 



# Like! City of Golden Valley Is Now On Facebook

This January, the City of Golden Valley launched its first Facebook page to help promote its programs, events, and services, and to foster connections between taxpayers and the City where they live, work and play.

The City of Golden Valley intends to use its Facebook page as a supplement to its website and as another way the government can communicate to the broadest possible audience of those it serves. 

..... Visit [www.facebook.com/cityofgoldenvalleymn](http://www.facebook.com/cityofgoldenvalleymn) to "like" us on Facebook. ....

## Summer Volunteer Opportunities Abound

The City of Golden Valley offers a variety of volunteer opportunities in several diverse areas, from public safety and government to recreation and events. Here are just a few ways you can get involved.



### Bike Rodeo

The annual Bike Rodeo (see page 15) educates kids about bike safety and introduces them to local law enforcement in a fun environment. Volunteers help set-up and clean-up, greet participants, fit bike helmets, and monitor the bike course. May 7, 5:30 to 8:30 pm, City Hall parking lot.

### Playground Specialists

Help provide activities at Golden Valley's playground program, held at various parks for seven weeks from June 9–July 24. The Naturalist will present a nature program one afternoon a week and the Photography Specialist will present a photography activity two afternoons a week.

### Fishing Club

Help the leader of the fishing club teach kids ages 12–14 how to bait hooks, cast, hook a fish, identify fish, etc. Tuesdays, June 10–July 15, 9 am–noon.

### Summer Concert Attendant

Meet and greet the performers, set up and take down chairs, deliver necessary materials to performers, evaluate performances, and clean up the site. Mondays, 5:30–8:30 pm, June 9–August 11, and Thursday, June 26, 5:30–8:30 pm.

### Adopt-A-Park

Help Golden Valley keep its parks beautiful. Open to community groups, civic organizations, churches, businesses, and individuals willing to make a minimum two-year commitment. Volunteers will keep an eye on their adopted parks, report any vandalism or unsafe conditions observed, and pick up litter at least twice a year. For more information, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/parks/adopt-a-park.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/parks/adopt-a-park.php).

### Sign Up Now!

To see other volunteer opportunities and to sign up, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/community/volunteers/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/community/volunteers/index.php). 

## Join The Golden Valley Lilac Project

Join friends and neighbors in beautifying the community! The Golden Valley Lilac Project is working to plant lilacs, shrubs, and flowers along Hwy 55 through Golden Valley. Each May, volunteers meet to maintain lilac beds planted in past years. This year there will be a second maintenance day in August. In September, the 7th annual Lilac Planting Party convenes to plant a new area. To volunteer for the maintenance days or the planning or planting teams, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/lilacplanting/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/lilacplanting/index.php), or contact volunteer coordinator Sandy Werts at 763-512-2341 or [swerts@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:swerts@goldenvalleymn.gov). 

### 7th Annual Lilac Project

Maintenance Days  
May 24 and Aug 2

Maintenance & Planting  
Sat, Sept 27

Locations TBA



# That What Shall Not Be Named

## Water Main Breaks Weigh Heavily On Everyone

Like actors who never utter the word “Macbeth” in a theater for fear it will bring them bad luck, or characters in Harry Potter who don’t dare speak the name of the evil Lord Voldemort, members of Golden Valley’s utilities crew refuse to say the words “water main break.”

“Those words will never come up,” says Bert Tracy, public works maintenance manager. “It’s ‘that which shall not be named.’”

Whenever Tracy hears about a water main break in another city, he cringes.

“You feel for those crews,” he says. “Because you know what they’re going through.”

Water main breaks are critical incidents for a City public works crew because residents and businesses in the area are without water until the break is repaired.

When a water main breaks in the winter, it means a minimum of six—and as much as 20—hours of digging up frozen ground just to get to the pipe, where crews sometimes have to wade through pools of water in below-zero temps.



Add the responsibility of keeping a crew safe during a dig and the concern for people who don’t have water until the break is fixed, and it’s enough to keep maintenance managers awake at night.

“You don’t sleep through storms, because you know something is going to go wrong,” says Kelley Janes, utilities maintenance supervisor. “In today’s age, uninterrupted service to the community is everything. If something goes wrong, we have to fix it right away, day or night.”

And this winter, hardly a week has passed where something hasn’t gone wrong. Between December and the end of February, Golden Valley had 12 water main breaks, more than the average.

The cold weather has a two-fold negative effect. First, the colder it gets, the more likely it is that water mains will break. Second, the colder it gets, the harder, longer, and more difficult it is to fix the break.

Janes recalls working on a water main break this January for so long, under such wet and cold conditions, that one of his extreme-weather, industrial-grade boots literally froze and broke apart.

“It can be a long day,” Janes says.

### Why Water Mains Break

There are two primary reasons a water main will break. In winter and spring, the reason is usually ground frost.

Pipes are buried eight feet underground, because ground frost generally won’t go that deep. This winter, however, the frost went much lower than its usual three to four feet, and when that happens, the area above a pipe loses its give and the ground no longer acts like a cushion. For example, when a truck drives over that frozen area, it’s as if the truck is driving



on the pipe directly. The pipes, especially older ones, can't take the strain.

The other primary reason a water main breaks is due to something called a "water hammer." If water is flowing through a pipe and then for some reason the pipe gets shut off abruptly, the halted momentum of all those thousands of gallons of water creates a sudden spike in pressure. To relieve that pressure, the water will bust out of wherever the pipe is weakest.

## Fixing A Water Main Break

The first step to fixing a water main break is finding out, exactly, where the break is located. Crews do this by putting their ear to the ground, using sonar technology to listen for the leak. Before they had this technology, Tracy says, crews had to use trial and error, digging up parts of the street in several locations to find the source of the problem.

Once the break is located, the crew will start digging. Sometimes they can't find a way to turn off the water flow, meaning they'll have to go into a watery hole wearing waders as a sump pump sucks out the water.

But before they even get to the pipe, they have to navigate all the other utilities on top of the pipe, such as gas and fiber-optic lines.

"We have to go through them or around them, some way," Janes says.

Crews will often need to dig around a concrete conduit that's holding other utilities. They then need to place one or two wooden beams the size of telephone poles under the conduit to support it.



In the hole, workers are protected from cave-ins by temporary metal walls not unlike a shark cage. When the hole is dug, parts of the earth get exposed to sunlight, which thaws the sides of the wall. Combine this with the fact the ground is already so much softer below the frozen surface, and you have a recipe for collapse.

That's why it's essential to follow proper safety procedures, says Tracy. Even though you're protected by the metal box, when a cave-in happens it's terrifying, like a car just slammed into the side of the box, he adds.

Even with the cold and the wet and the pressure to get the job done quickly, Janes and Tracy agree there are some lighter moments. Janes recalls a time the hole was full of water when the sides caved in. The resulting geyser showered every crew member in sight.

When crews get done digging the hole, navigating the other utilities, and wading through the water, they can finally fix the pipe.

To fix a water main break, crews replace the broken section of pipe with a metal band or with new piping made of metal that's more flexible than the material used in the past. Most piping under Golden Valley is more than 50 years old, before the enhanced metal was available, and it will be several more decades before all that old piping gets replaced.

After the repair is made and the hole is refilled, crews use a special cold-weather material to patch the street. This patch is only effective in winter, meaning that come spring, crews must replace it with a more permanent patch.

Water main breaks are a fact of life in Minnesota, especially in areas like Golden Valley, where soil conditions are less than kind to the lifespan of the pipe materials. Wholesale replacement of aging water mains will cost millions, so for years the City has been handling it on a priority basis. Each year, the City evaluates its water and sewer system, identifies the deficiencies, and replaces and rehabilitates those facilities as needed as part of its Pavement Management Program (see page 12).

Questions about water main breaks in Golden Valley? Contact Public Works at 763-593-8030. 

# Serious Crimes Reach Record Low

## GVPD Annual Report Released With Good News .....

In 2013, Golden Valley saw its lowest violent crime rate in at least 38 years, which is as far back as the record goes.

After a slight increase in part 1 crime in 2012, crime in Golden Valley has returned to its declining trend. Before 2013, 2011 showed the lowest recorded crime rate for the community.

Part of the drop in serious crime is due to a national declining trend, says Police Chief Stacy Carlson. But a lot of it is also due to the City's crime prevention efforts.

For the last several years the City has put increased emphasis on community based policing.

"Foot patrol, business checks, proactive policing, getting out there, getting visible, educating people, that's what you have to do," Carlson says. "You have to put up a good defensive front."

Too often in the past, she says, police would only get to know residents when residents were victims of crimes. Today, police want to get to know residents before any crime happens and educate them about crime prevention.

### Education

Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) employees conduct twice yearly crime prevention meetings by geographic/neighborhood zones to offer safety tips to residents as well as present the latest crime statistics for the respective zone.

Last year, officers taught roughly 150 fifth-graders at Noble Elementary, the School of Engineering and Arts (SEA) School, and Good Shepherd Elementary about the dangers of drug use and dealing with peer pressure.



Golden Valley police officers also reached out to the at-risk children to foster police/youth relationships and encourage school attendance.

Throughout the warmer months, officers pedaled their way through more than a hundred hours of bike patrol, which proved to be successful both from a bicycle safety enforcement standpoint and for family and resident outreach, Carlson says.



### Crime Rates

There were 473 part 1 crimes last year, compared with 742 in 2003, a 36 percent drop. Part 1 crimes include aggravated assault, rape, murder, robbery, arson, burglary, and theft.

There were 24,920 calls for service in 2013, up from last year, which saw 19,782 calls. An uptick in the number of calls for service isn't necessarily a bad thing, Carlson says. The police department has encouraged people to call 911 whenever they see something even remotely suspicious.

Sometimes people are afraid to call 911, or don't think the reason for calling is important enough, Carlson says, but it's better if police can respond to a crime before it happens rather than after the fact, even if that means responding to a few false alarms.

In 2013, the top four reasons for calls to the police department were: 1) traffic related, 2) medical emergencies, 3) alarm sounding, and 4) suspicious activity.

People seem to be getting more comfortable calling 911, Carlson says. And that's helping the overall crime rate stay low.

Golden Valley police response times improved over previous years—two minutes for the most serious calls and four minutes for the least serious. This is about twice as fast as in 2012 and 2011.

Watch for the complete GVPD Annual Report on the City website later this spring. 

# GVFD Recruits “Everyday” People

There are certain myths about what the perfect firefighter looks like, says Stephen Baker, fire education specialist. But these myths have no place in Golden Valley’s approach to recruitment.

“I’m older and a female and have three children who really rely on me,” says Anne Saffert, who joined the fire department two years ago when she was 39. “My family is very happy and excited for me, and the department knows that my family comes first.”

Saffert is a stay-at-home mom who says she’ll respond to fire calls both day and night. She says her kids think it’s pretty cool, unless she has to respond during dinner or when they’re in the middle of something fun, “like making them all come home from a bowling alley, but that’s only happened once.”

The City is always looking for more daytime responders. They’re harder to come by since many people have a difficult time getting away from their day jobs to respond to a fire call.

Gregg Prest owns Crown Stamp & Engraving with his wife in Golden Valley. At one point, firefighters made up two of the company’s four full-time employees.

“Half of our business would stop for the good citizens of Golden Valley when the alarm would sound,” says Prest, who’s been a firefighter for 16 years. “It requires a little bit of sacrifice on our part, but it has never hurt the business.”

Chris Gemlo, independent contractor and realtor, has been a firefighter for 18 years.

“It’s not easy. There are some sacrifices you have to make,” he says. “But it’s rewarding. You get to do a lot of fun stuff a lot of people don’t normally get to do, and you’re participating in the community.”

“I joined the department because I was trying to find a way to give back,” Saffert says. “Now that I’ve joined, I can’t imagine anyone saying they wish they hadn’t signed up to be a firefighter. It feels more like being a part of a community than it does a job.”

The City’s annual Firefighter Recruitment Expo will be held at Fire Station 1, June 12, from 6–10 pm. For more information, contact [sbaker@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:sbaker@goldenvalleymn.gov) or visit [goldenvalleyfire.com](http://goldenvalleyfire.com).



Anne Saffert



Gregg Prest



Chris Gemlo

## Of Golden Valley’s 50 paid, on-call firefighters, 13 are daytime responders who come from all walks of life:

- Don Anderson, sales
- Brian Crow, retired
- Chris Gemlo, realtor
- Drew Gerling, financial planner
- Brent Hadoff, finance manager
- Aaron Johnson, contractor
- Dave Koski, master engraver
- Jeff Piper, realtor
- Gregg Prest, local business owner
- Josh Richardson, manager
- Anne Saffert, stay-at-home mom
- Shawn Thorud, realtor
- Jason Trout, mortgage broker

## GV Firefighters Are Top *Fight For Air* Fundraisers

Four Golden Valley firefighters participated in the Feb 22 American Lung Association *Fight For Air*, a fundraiser that brought 38 fire departments and 266 firefighters to Minneapolis for a 31-story climb in full fire gear.

Named the top fundraising team for six of the eight years it participated in the climb, Team Golden Valley raised



\$11,811 this year and more than \$70,000 overall. Golden Valley firefighter Ken Bence was the No. 1 fundraiser of the event, bringing in \$7,391.

Team Golden Valley included family and friends of firefighters: Steve Baker, Noah Baker, Ryan Baker, Ken Bence, Chris Gemlo, Jake Gemlo, Lisa Gemlo, and Jeff Piper.

# City Reinvests In Infrastructure One Street At A Time

This summer the City will reconstruct 1.2 miles of streets in the area just south of Glenwood Ave between Jersey Ave S and Dakota Ave S as part of its ongoing Pavement Management Program (PMP).

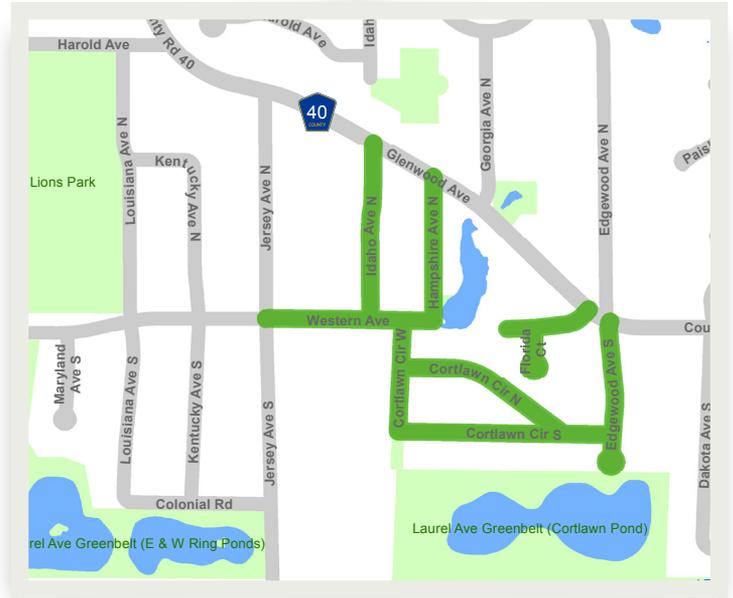
Streets will be reconstructed to City standards, including concrete curb and gutter. The project will also address necessary repairs to the storm sewer, water mains, and sanitary sewer mains.

Streets to be reconstructed this year include:

- Western Ave between Jersey Ave S and Hampshire Ave N
- Hampshire Ave N between Glenwood Ave and Jersey Ave S
- Idaho Ave N between Glenwood Ave and Western Ave
- S Cortlawn Cir from W Cortlawn Cir to Edgewood Ave S
- N Cortlawn Cir from W Cortlawn Cir to S Cortlawn Cir
- W Cortlawn Cir from Western Ave to S Cortlawn Cir
- Florida Ct from Glenwood Ave to cul-de-sac
- Edgewood Ave S from Glenwood Ave to cul-de-sac

The 2014 PMP project was designed at the same time as the 2013 PMP. City staff completed preliminary survey and design work and met with affected property owners, and the City Council authorized both projects at a public hearing Nov 7, 2012.

The City took bids for the 2014 PMP in February, and work is expected to start this spring.



Residents who live in the PMP area will receive regular construction updates from the City.

To date, the City of Golden Valley has reconstructed 96 miles of streets as part of the PMP.

To learn more about the construction process and the City's commitment to providing quality roads and infrastructure, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/streets/pmp](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/streets/pmp). Questions? Contact Golden Valley Public Works at 763-593-8030. ~

## Street Sweeping Starts Soon

Golden Valley is divided into four sections for street sweeping. This allows crews to rotate sections each year so no area is always first or last. This year, Section III leads off the rotation, followed by Sections II, I, and IV.

**Section III boundaries:** Hwy 100, north City limit, east City limit, Hwy 55

**Section II boundaries:** Winnetka Ave, north City limit, Hwy 100, Hwy 55

**Section I boundaries:** Winnetka Ave, north City limit, south City limit, west City limit

**Section IV boundaries:** Hwy 55, Winnetka Ave, south City limit, east City limit

**Spring:** Sweep curb-to-curb in late-March/April.

**Summer:** Sweep all gutters once during the summer; sweep key areas for water quality more often if needed.

**Fall:** Sweep curb-to-curb in October and November (wait for as many leaves to fall as possible). ~



# Property Maintenance Is Neighborly

## Golden Valley Inspectors Are Here To Help

Proper maintenance increases the value of your home and the homes around you. 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, says Dave Gustafson, fire/property maintenance specialist for Golden Valley.

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 in 2013 was upkeep of a neighbor's property, specifically "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.

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, two inspectors will be taking a more proactive approach and educating residents when they see potential problems. The intent is to correct problems before they become complaints.

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.

The City's inspections department is an excellent resource for things like whether you need a permit, City requirements, and even the permit history (so you can see if work has been done on your home by a previous owner).

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. Also check out the various home remodeling shows throughout the metro area, where you can speak directly to various contractors without obligation.

Often the biggest question is whether or not you have a property maintenance problem. In this case it's always best to go with your instinct. If you're asking yourself this question, then it should probably be addressed. Please do not hesitate to call. 🌿

---

## 2015 Project Will Upgrade Hwy 55/Winnetka Intersection

Using grant funding awarded by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), the City of Golden Valley will begin construction in 2015 at the Winnetka Ave and Hwy 55 intersection to improve traffic flow.

Existing conditions at the intersection cause delays on the local roadways during peak hours (6:45–8:30 am and 3:30–6 pm). Drivers often wait several light cycles before proceeding through, and the queue lengths commonly disrupt adjacent intersections.

Proposed improvements include adding a southbound through-lane and dual protected left turns for northbound and southbound traffic entering Hwy 55.

According to City engineers, the project will decrease overall intersection delay by approximately 8 percent, particularly during peak hours.

The proposed improvements scored a 1.18 in a MnDOT-approved cost-benefit analysis. Scores greater than 1.0 indicate a project in which the long-term benefits outweigh the initial investment and so are considered investment-worthy by MnDOT.

The City has solicited a proposal for final design for the project, which covers survey work, base mapping, geotechnical analysis, public involvement and meetings, and preparation of plans and specifications. The project will be funded by the City and MnDOT. All City expenses will be paid for using Municipal State Aid Construction Allotment Funds.

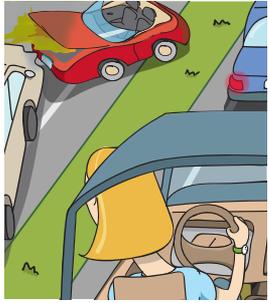
The City submitted the grant application for the MnDOT Metro Municipal Agreement Program in 2013. The program aims to bring local municipalities and MnDOT together to perform projects that provide benefits to both the local and state transportation network. 🌿

# Speeding...What's Your Point Of View?

## It Often Depends Where You Are

Yesterday you were commiserating with your neighbors about how too many cars are going too fast on your street, and today you're sitting in your car just two blocks from home, waiting for a police officer to write you a ticket for excessive speed. How does this happen?

Speeding is one of those issues that varies depending on perspective. If you're driving you may see things differently than if you're in the front yard watching cars drive by on your street. Of course, police officers have a completely different view on the topic.



### Drivers

Drivers are challenged with innumerable distractions. While they should be focused on the road, their surroundings, and on their driving behavior, it's possible from time to time they speed unintentionally. Drivers also tend to travel at speeds they perceive as safe for the particular roadway and traffic conditions, and as such, they may not watch their speedometer as carefully as they should.

When police pull people over for speeding in residential areas, more often than not the driver lives in the area and is very familiar with the streets. Speeders often comment they did not intend to be going that fast (keep in mind drivers are responsible for their speed despite their intentions). And while some streets in Golden Valley, such as county highways, are wider and have pavement markings like a highway, it doesn't mean it's safe or legal to drive at speeds approaching highway speed limits.

### Neighbors

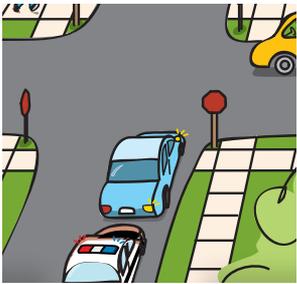
When people aren't behind the wheel, perspectives change. On foot, they may feel more vulnerable to the powerful machines driving nearby. Excessive vehicle speed on neighborhood streets is one of the most common complaints the City hears from residents. However, perception of vehicle speeds is not always reality. For example, the City responds to speeding complaints using observation, traffic speed counters or speed trailers, and increased enforcement. Often data collected from these tools show that excessive vehicle speeds reported by pedestrians are in fact not over the speed limit. Keep in mind your neighbors are watching how you drive and do report concerns to the City. When the City responds with enforcement activity, it's not uncommon to find the few people who are speeding also live in the neighborhood.



### Police

According to the Golden Valley Police Department, exceeding the speed limit is one of the top three reasons vehicles are pulled over. In addition, excessive speed often contributes to motor vehicle crashes. Police officers are able to accurately measure speed using hand-held radar devices. They can also estimate vehicle speeds after a crash by measuring skid marks. So for the police, speed is a real and factual element of driver behavior that needs to be managed.

Questions? Contact the Golden Valley Police Department at 763-593-8079. 



## How You Can Help

Answer the following questions and consider whether increased awareness on your part can help your neighborhood, and the community overall.

**1. Do you come to a complete stop at every stop sign?** Vehicles rolling through stop signs are a very common concern heard from residents.

**2. At residential street intersections without stop or yield signs, do you slow down and look for other vehicles before proceeding?** Right-of-way rules apply to every intersection with or without a stop or yield sign.

**3. When you drive to and from home, do you sometimes not remember the drive (as if you're on auto pilot)?** When you "zone out," your brain is not focused and your ability to respond to unforeseen circumstances is severely limited.

**4. Do you drive the same route to and from home every day and know every hill, curve, and parked vehicle along the route?** If so, you may have become complacent and not anticipate potential hazards.



# UPCOMING (free) events

PHOTO BY PATRICK O'ROURKE, VIEWS OF THE VALLEY 2013

## Run the Valley

Sat, April 12 | 8 am (see page 16)

## City Council Neighborhood Meeting

Sat, April 29 | 7–8:30 pm

Valley Of Peace Lutheran Church

Join the City Council for informal discussion.

## Spring Brush Pick-Up

April 28–May 12 (see page 4)

## STEP TO IT CHALLENGE KICK-OFF

Sun, May 4 | 1 pm

Brookview Park Large Picnic Shelter

Step To It (May 4–31) kicks off with a recreational walk with Mayor Shep Harris. Participants in this Hennepin County program record the number of steps they walk each week or the time spent doing activities such as biking, Tai Chi, etc. Twenty-three cities compete to see which one has the most active residents. Register at [www.steptoit.org](http://www.steptoit.org).

## HRC CONVERSATIONS: MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

Thurs, May 8 | 6:30 pm

City Hall Council Chambers

Program on families and mental illness, in conjunction with National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day. Hosted by Golden Valley Human Rights Commission, HRC Conversations brings the community together for dialogue on current human rights issues.

## 2014 BIKE RODEO

Wed, May 7 | 6–8 pm (rain or shine)

Golden Valley City Hall Parking Lot

7800 Golden Valley Rd

Free event for kids ages 12 and under with an adult. Get a bike safety check, ride through a skills course, have your helmet fitted properly, enjoy music and complimentary refreshments,

and register to win prizes! No registration required. The goal is to educate kids about bike safety and introduce them to local law enforcement in a fun environment.

Sponsored by the Cities of Golden Valley, New Hope, and Crystal, and Golden Valley VFW Post 7051. 

## Lilac Project Maintenance Day

Sat, May 24 | (see page 7)

## Views Of The Valley Photo Contest

Fri, June 6 | 4:30 pm (see page 3)

## Firefighter Recruitment Expo

Thur, June 12 | 6–10 pm

More information at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/fire/firefighters/expo/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/fire/firefighters/expo/index.php).

## Public Safety Open House

Wed, June 18 | 6–9 pm

Golden Valley Police Department

More information at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/openhouse/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/openhouse/index.php).

## FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION STREET DANCE

Sat, June 21 | 5 pm–midnight

Chester Bird American Legion

An evening of entertainment for the whole family. Sponsored by the Golden Valley Fire Relief Association to celebrate its bond with the community.

## Firefighter Recruitment Meetings

Thur, June 26 | 9:30 am & 6:30 pm

More information at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/fire/firefighters/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/fire/firefighters/index.php).

More event information at: [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/calendar](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/calendar)



7800 Golden Valley Road  
Golden Valley, MN 55427

763-593-8000  
763-593-3968 TTY

[www.goldenvalleymn.gov](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov)

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 1659  
Twin Cities, MN

## Plymouth Tree Sale

The City of Plymouth's spring tree and shrub sale is accepting orders from Golden Valley residents through May 1. Trees range from \$15-\$45; shrubs from \$7-\$10. Trees and shrubs do not come with a warranty. Quantities are limited, so order early.

Get order forms online at [www.plymouthmn.gov](http://www.plymouthmn.gov) or at the Public Works counter in Golden Valley City Hall.

Plants will be available for pick-up May 16 and 17 at the Plymouth public works maintenance facility (14900 23rd Ave N).

For more information, or if you have questions about the trees after buying them, contact Tim Teynor, City forester, at 763-593-3976 or [tteynor@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:tteynor@goldenvalleymn.gov).

## 20th Annual Run The Valley Is April 12

Plan now to Run the Valley Saturday, April 12, and help raise money for the Golden Valley Human Services Fund. One hundred percent of the proceeds are allocated to non-profit organizations that serve Golden Valley residents in need.

The event begins at 8 am for the 10K run, 8:10 am for the 5K run, and 8:15 am for the 5K walk (5K and 10K races will be chip-timed). New this year is the .2-mile Kids Fun Run for youth ages 2-12, which starts at 7:45 (\$5 fee includes Fun Run number and participation ribbon; parents may accompany little ones for free). Race headquarters will be Brookview Community Center, 200 Brookview Parkway S, Golden Valley. The certified course runs through residential Golden Valley.

Water stops and post-race complimentary snacks are donated by area businesses. For 2014, corporate sponsors are Bassett Creek Dental, City of Golden Valley, and Liberty Carton. Other sponsors include: Al's Coffee, Byerly's, Cable 12/NWCT, Einstein Bros Bagels, Finken Great Glacier Water, Go Health Chiropractic, Old Fashioned Donut Shoppe, Perkins Family Restaurant—Hwy 55, Perkins Family Restaurant—394, Pilgrim Cleaners, Road ID, Valley Pastries, and Yoplait USA.



### To Register

- In Person: \$30 by April 11, \$40 on race day (7-7:45 am at Brookview Community Center). Check, cash, or VISA/MasterCard.
- Online (by April 10): \$30 [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) or [www.zapevent.com](http://www.zapevent.com) (additional fee charged).
- Children 12 and under may register for \$15 when accompanied by an adult (chip timing not included—to be eligible for medal, chip timing must be used).

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

## Lawn Maintenance Requirements Outlined

Golden Valley's lawn maintenance ordinance bans noxious weeds and requires turf lawns to be maintained at eight inches or less. If a property is found to be in violation of the ordinance (10.51), the City mails a letter to the property owner. The property owner then has 10 days to comply before the City mows the vegetation at the property owner's expense.

If the City has to mail a second violation notice to a property owner, the notice will include a general warning that the City can abate future violations without providing specific notices. The complete lawn maintenance ordinance is available at City Hall and the Golden Valley Library. For more information, contact Public Works at 763-593-8030.



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.

