



cityNEWS



GOLDEN VALLEY OFFERS TONS OF SUMMER FUN

Water Days at Scheid Park are just two of the many programs and events provided by the City for the enjoyment of all.

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Photo by Stan Waldhauser

SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY: ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The key to getting through summer storms is being aware and prepared.

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Recycling Fees Fund Services

Reduced Rebate Revenue Drives Recent Rate Increase

The City of Golden Valley began providing residential curbside recycling service to the community in 1987. The state-mandated program is funded through user fees on utility bills, a grant from Hennepin County, and revenues from recycling rebates.

The curbside recycling program, in which Golden Valley partners with the Cities of Minnetonka and Plymouth to contract with one hauler for biweekly services, includes a rebate element that credits the Cities based on recycling levels and market prices paid for recycled materials. Although the City has a high percentage of recyclers, recycled goods have caught up to demand in recent years, resulting in reduced rebate revenue.

Last December the City Council approved a recycling rate increase from \$10 to \$12 per quarter to start April 2014. The last recycling rate increase was in 2011. The \$48 annual recycling fee includes the following services.

Biweekly Curbside Recycling Pick-Up

Every other week residents can place recycling at the curb for pick-up. In January 2012 the program was expanded to include a larger cart with wheels and a lid, more recyclables, and no more sorting (throw all recyclables in the cart). For a complete list of materials accepted for curbside pick-up, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recycling/curbside/index.php.



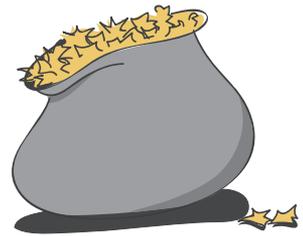
Spring Brush Pickup

Golden Valley's annual three-week curbside brush pick-up in May gives homeowners the opportunity to place tree limbs and

brush at their curbs for collection and disposal. Under severe conditions and when authorized by City Council, the City also has provided additional brush pick-ups due to extensive storm damage throughout the community (see pages 8-9). For more information, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/yards/brush-pick-up.php.

Fall Leaf Drop Off

The annual three-weekend leaf drop-off in the fall provides residents a monitored site to dispose of their leaves during the last weekend in October and the first two weekends in November. For more information, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/yards/leaf-drop-off.php.



Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day

Golden Valley's annual Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day was established to provide residents a monitored site to dispose of items they no longer use and that cannot be donated, such as old mattresses and sofas, broken bicycles, ancient appliances, unwanted tires, and outdated electronics (computers and televisions). Although some items are accepted at no charge, there are fees for other items to help cover the cost of disposal. For more information, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recycling/mightytidyday/index.php.

If you have questions about recycling rates, contact the Finance Department at 763-593-8010. If you have questions about Golden Valley's recycling program, contact Public Works at 763-593-8030. ~~~~~

A Word About Garbage & Recycling Bins...

Due to an increased number of complaints by residents about their neighbors' garbage or recycling bins being visible from the street, Property Maintenance Inspector Dave Gustafson offers the following clarification on the City's garbage can ordinance. Unless garbage or recycling bins are set at the curb for pick-up day, they must be behind the front plane of the main living structure, and they are never allowed to be overflowing. This

means for some properties, bins may be within sight of the street or neighboring properties as long as they are not in front of the home. Gustafson asks residents to do their best to be respectful of neighbors when storing garbage and recycling containers. Questions? Contact Dave Gustafson at 763-593-8074 or dgustafson@goldenvalleymn.gov.

Run The Valley Draws 452 Participants

20th Annual 5K/10K Event Raises \$15,320, Netting \$11,000 For GVHSF

The 20th annual Run The Valley 5/10K Run and 5K Walk drew 452 participants April 12 to compete for medals and raise money for the Golden Valley Human Services Fund (GVHSF).

The event raised \$15,320 and netted about \$11,000 for the GVHSF, which allocates the funds to local human service organizations that benefit the community.

Winners of the 10K were McKenzie Holt of St Cloud (40:29) and Christopher Grossinger of Victoria (35:17). Winners of the 5K were Kelly Ose of Jamestown (21:32) and Peter Gellerup of Plymouth (18:36).

Golden Valley medalists in the 10K included Yannis Mandravelis (51:05.6—first, males age 0-19) and Sara Woeste (45:20—first, females 30-39). Golden Valley medalists in the 5k were Sam Theisen (23:04.2—first, males 0-19), Ali Ackerman (23:52.6—first, females 0-19), and Jim Curme (23:17.5—first, males 50-59).

Corporate sponsors were Bassett Creek Dental, Cable 12/NWCT, City of Golden Valley, Liberty Carton/LDI, Al's Coffee, Byerly's—Golden Valley, Caribou Coffee—Golden Valley, Chiquita Banana, Einstein Bros Bagels, Finken Great Glacier Water, Go Health Chiropractic, Old Fashioned Donuts, Perkins Family

Restaurant—Highway 55, Perkins Family Restaurant—394, Pilgrim Cleaners, Road ID, Valley Pastries, and Yoplait USA.

The 2015 Run the Valley will be April 11. 



PHOTO BY JSTAR INSPIRATIONS PHOTO

 More at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/runthevalley

Plan Now For The GVHSF Golf Classic

The 2014 Golden Valley Golf Classic will be held Friday, July 11, at Brookview Golf Course. The Golden Valley Human Services Fund (GVHSF) hosts the annual event to benefit local charities, and it distributes 100 percent of funds raised to causes directly serving the Golden Valley community.

JOIN THE PARTY. The tournament begins with an 8 am shotgun start. Foursomes can register for \$300 (includes fees, cart, continental breakfast, lunch, and a chance to win prizes). Or, bring a second foursome for \$500 total (both foursomes must register together).

SUPPORT THE CAUSE. Prefer the role of booster? You can support the GVHSF and this event as a Corporate Sponsor (\$1,000) or Golf Hole Sponsor (\$500). Contributions of cash, merchandise, and in-kind items or gift certificates are welcome for hole contests, prizes, and drawings. Volunteers are also needed the day of the event (see page 7).

The 2013 event drew 116 golfers who, with corporate and individual sponsors, helped the Golf Classic raise \$6,826 (net) for local human service organizations.

For more information, visit www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/golfclassic or contact staff liaison Jeanne Fackler at 763-512-2340 or jfackler@goldenvalleymn.gov. 



Green Up Your Spring Cleaning

Dispose Of Household Hazardous Waste Properly



When you tackle your spring cleaning projects this year, keep an eye out for items that may require more careful disposal than just chucking them in the trash. The National Waste & Recycling Association recommends the following safe and environmentally friendly ways to clear out your junk.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)—

First check if anyone you know can use your leftovers, otherwise take them to a HHW disposal site. Such items include fertilizers, pesticides, weed killers, and pool chemicals; household

chemicals (nail polish remover, bleach, oven cleaners, drain cleaners, metal polishes, etc); energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), which contain mercury; and paint thinners, varnishes and oil-based paints. Latex paint can be dried out and put in the trash—but the cans can be recycled.

Recycle, Reduce, and Reuse—Recycle batteries, motor oil and filters (check with HHW facilities, automotive stores, repair shops, and garages), and electronic waste (computers, cell phones, televisions, etc).

Extra Care Required—Medical waste, like sharps (needles, syringes, lancets), medicines, and pharmaceuticals require special care. Place sharps in approved containers and dispose according to local guidelines. If throwing out medicines, never flush them down toilets or drains as wastewater facilities cannot filter them. Check for local medical waste disposal sites.

Pressurized Containers—Because these items may explode under heat or pressure, take them to a HHW collection site (empty aerosol containers are recyclable). Refillable propane tanks can usually be returned to suppliers.

To dispose of other items, visit Hennepin County's A to Z Disposal Guide at www.hennepinatoz.org/azguide/household.html.

HHW Disposal Options

Hennepin County organizes collection events throughout the year to give residents convenient, local disposal options for HHW (see box).

Hennepin County's two permanent drop-off sites (8100 Jefferson Hwy, Brooklyn Park and 1400 W 96th St, Bloomington) accept HHW, including electronics, year-round. For more information, call 612-348-3777 or visit www.hennepin.us/dropoffs.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off

June 12-14, 9 am–4 pm

2025 Texas Ave S, St Louis Park (St Louis Park Jr High School)

Accepted Materials (free of charge)

A complete list of accepted materials drop-off instructions can be found at www.hennepin.us/collectionevents.

- Aerosol cans
- Auto/fuel wastes (no motor oil or filters)
- Batteries (household and vehicle)
- Driveway sealer
- Fluorescent and HID lamps (straight, compact, u-tube, circular) limit 25
- Gas cylinders (40 lbs or less)
- Mercury-containing items (thermostats and thermometers)
- Paint, paint thinners, stains and solvents
- Pesticides
- Pool, photographic, and hobby chemicals
- Rechargeable products

Not Accepted

Any waste from businesses, appliances, asbestos and construction debris, compressed gas cylinders and tanks that require special handling, electronic waste, explosives, garbage, medical or infectious wastes, radioactive waste (eg, smoke detectors), tires, and yard waste.

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
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.

New Briarwood Pond Is Investment In Water Quality

A 184-acre section of northern Golden Valley will see an improvement in water quality next year with the construction of a sediment pond in the Briarwood Nature Area.

Like most of Golden Valley, the area was developed in the 1950s when they didn't have the same regulations as we do now, says Joe Fox, Golden Valley water resources engineer.

The \$225,000 water quality construction project, located on the north end of the Briarwood Nature Area along Dawnview Terrace, will begin later this fall and take one month to complete.

After a comprehensive study on various ways to improve water quality in the area, City staff found that constructing a sediment pond was the most cost-effective strategy, Fox says. The construction will be paid for by the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission.

Unfettered Runoff

Currently, storm water in the area drains directly into Bassett Creek. Without a buffer such as a sediment pond, sand, grit, and pollution flow unfettered into the creek. With a pond, much of that sediment gets trapped where it can later be dredged out once every 10–20 years.

The pond will include a state-of-the-art iron sand filter recently developed to better trap phosphorus pollution. Older methods allow nearly half of phosphorous in the water to flow through. Phosphorous is necessary for plants, but an excess of it leads to an overabundance of algae, which causes many issues in lakes.



Improving Water Quality An Ongoing Effort

Water quality in Bassett Creek and adjacent lakes has been improving with ongoing efforts, Fox says, but with advancements in technology, engineers continue to identify more ways in which the water quality can be improved.

For example, Wirth Lake will be removed from the State's impaired waters list in regard to excess phosphorus.

"The more we learn, the more we know what to be concerned about," Fox says. "but with every step, progress is being made."

In 2015, crews will reconstruct some of Bassett Creek's banks between Rhode Island Ave and Duluth St to create gentler slopes and add vegetation and rock buffers to catch pollution and prevent erosion. More information about that project and other Bassett Creek restoration work can be found at www.goldenvalley-mn.gov/surfacewater/stream-bank-stabilization.php.

City Unveils Natural Resources Management Plan Framework

After months of working with a group of college students and City Commissioners, City staff is unveiling the framework for a comprehensive Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP). Golden Valley's NRMP will include objectives, policies, and an implementation program identifying specific and achievable projects. Other components of the plan include:

- identifying opportunities to provide natural resource education to residents and property owners
- converting the City's existing natural resource practices into formal policies
- creating an inventory of City-owned open space parcels and rights-of-way and exploring ways to improve the use and appearance of these properties
- identifying partnerships and grant opportunities to help the City achieve its natural resource objectives

In 2012, City staff provided guidance and assistance to University of Minnesota students working on a capstone project titled "Sustainable Natural Resource Management in Golden Valley." The students presented their ideas and recommendations at a joint meeting of the Environmental and Open Space and Recreation Commissions, City Council, and staff. One was development of a NRMP, which the Environmental Commission included as the top priority in its 2013 work plan. Staff will work with the Environmental Commission to complete the plan in 2014.

The completed NRMP will eventually be incorporated into the City's 2018 comprehensive plan update, set to begin in 2015. Questions? Contact Eric Eckman at 763-593-8084 or eckman@goldenvalley-mn.gov.

Recreation Highlights

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

Youth

Playground Programs (ages 6–12)—Mon–Thur, June 9–July 24. 9 am–noon at Gearty, Lakeview, North Wesley, and South Tyrol; 1–4 pm at Hampshire, Lions, Medley, and Scheid. Free.

Ultimate Frisbee Camps—Mon–Fri, July 28–Aug 1 (ages 7–12), Aug 4–8 (ages 10–16), Lions Park, \$68/resident.

Adult

Adult Softball and Soccer Leagues—Registration packets on City website.

Seniors

Money Matters—June 19: “Senior Medical Patrol—Prevent Medicare Fraud and Abuse;” July 17: “Stock Market 101,” 10–11:15 am, Brookview.

Coffee Talk—9:45 am, Brookview Community Center. June 25: “Picturesque China,” July 23: “Lawn Bowling, What’s it all about?” \$2 at door.

Mary Wanderer’s—July 17: *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, U of M Showboat, \$66 (buffet lunch, reserved theater tickets, motor-coach transportation, escort). Bus departs GV City Hall/Calvary Coop 12:10 pm, returns 5 pm. Register/cancel by June 23.

Living Wise and Well—July 3: “Ten Strategies for Healthy Living,” Aug 7: “Osteoarthritis,” 1 pm, Calvary Center Coop. Free.

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.



Parks & Rec Offers Slew Of New Activities

We say it every year, but it was a long, cold winter, even for Minnesota. Now that it’s over, don’t waste another second inside. Golden Valley Parks and Recreation offers abundant activities to help maximize your time outdoors, and this year’s list has a slew of new additions.

Expanded Concerts In the Park—The Concerts in the Park season will be a few weeks longer, kicking off at Brookview Park Monday June 9, 7 pm, and running every Monday through Aug 11. See the complete schedule on page 16.

Tennis Court Schedules—A new online schedule of the City’s 23 tennis courts shows when they are open for walk-up play. Go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/parks/tennis/index.php.

Sand Volleyball—Designed to be an enjoyable recreational opportunity, the adult co-rec sand volleyball league will play at Brookview Park’s sand volleyball courts. The program will start with up to eight teams but has room to grow in the future. Learn more at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation/adults/sand-volleyball/index.php.

Lawn Bowling—Golden Valley’s first lawn bowling courts are under construction at Brookview Golf Course and will be ready for use later this summer. Lawn bowling season starts Aug 18 and continues for seven weeks. To register or find out more, visit www.brookviewgolf.com/lawn-bowling/index.html.

Movie In The Park—Bring a blanket or lawn chair to Brookview Park Aug 14 and enjoy “The Lego Movie” under the stars. Movie starts around 8:30 pm. Details at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation/youth/special-events.php.

Bike To The Ballpark—Bike to Target Field Aug 6 to catch a Twins/Padres game. Group will leave Golden Valley at 11:15 am and ride the Luce Line Trail to the game. Return around 3:45 pm. Cost is \$20 for residents, \$26 for non-residents. Call 763-512-2345 to register.

Five New Playgrounds Opening—Five Golden Valley playgrounds will be replaced with new, better equipment this summer: Lions, Gearty, Wildwood, Glenview, and Brookview. For links to more information and grand opening dates, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/parks/index.php.

To find other things to do or places to go in Golden Valley, visit www.goldenvalleymn.gov and click on “Parks and Recreation.” The “Parks and Trails” link maps out City trails and helps you find parks by activity as well as athletic fields and picnic shelters. Recreation programs are grouped into Youth, Adult, and Senior categories (see sidebar for a taste). Questions? Contact Parks and Recreation at 763-512-2345. 

Golden Valley Volunteers

Throughout the year, volunteers help ensure the success of numerous City events and programs. For example, 56 volunteers helped keep things rolling at the April 12 *Run The Valley* event. If you're interested in helping out and getting involved in your community, here are a few upcoming opportunities.

Events

Public Safety Open House—Help the Fire Department at the Public Safety Open House with set-up, serving refreshments, monitoring the jump house, and passing out T-shirts, temporary tattoos, and materials. Face painters are also needed (paints and brushes will be provided). Wed, June 18, 6–8 pm, Fire Stations One, Two, and Three.

Golden Valley Golf Classic—The Golden Valley Golf Classic raises money to support the Golden Valley Human Services Fund, which funds organizations that help residents in need. Volunteers needed include greeter and registration, attester, tournament scorer, photographer, refreshment servers, and clean-up helpers. Fri, July 12, various times between 7 am and 1 pm, Brookview Golf Course.

Ice Cream Social—Help with set-up and clean-up at this popular community event. Mon, July 14, 6–9 pm.

Penny Carnival—Run carnival games, collect pennies, hand out prizes, and watch the kids have fun. Must enjoy working with youth ages 4 to 12 and be able to work outdoors. Fri, July 25, 10 am to 1 pm, Brookview Park, large shelter.

Lilac Project—The Golden Valley Lilac Project is working to plant lilacs, shrubs, and flowers along Hwy 55 through Golden



Valley. Volunteers are needed for planting and to maintain lilac beds planted in past years. This year's Lilac Planting Party is Sat, Sept 27. Maintenance Day is Sat, Aug 2.

Programs

Brookview Golf Course Assistants—Junior Golf League support volunteers help youth beginners with golf rules, etiquette, pace of play, safety, and enjoyment of the game. Mondays, June 16–July 21, 6 am to 1 pm, Brookview Golf Course. Dates and hours are flexible.

Tournament Scoring Assistants—transfer scores to the tournament scoreboard and add scores to determine places. Must be 18 years old, have a basic knowledge of golf, rules of play and etiquette, basic math, and legible handwriting.

Photo Posse—Share your photography skills by taking pictures of City events, interactions, and sights at various times throughout the year. Photographers grant permission for the City to use submitted photos in a variety of ways (publications, websites, videos, presentations, marketing and educational materials, etc). All photos will be appropriately credited when used.

Sign Up Now!

To see other volunteer opportunities and to sign up, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/community/volunteers/index.php. Questions? Contact Volunteer Coordinator Sandy Werts at 763-512-2341 or swerts@goldenvalleymn.gov.



Alice Alden

Volunteer Spotlight

Alice Alden, 97, has been volunteering with Golden Valley for about nine years. She helps out at the City's Penny Carnival in the summer, and she spends two hours every week at "Mondays With Mary," making greeting cards and place mats to donate to nursing homes and Dinner at Your Door. "It's very enjoyable," Alice says. "And we get a half hour out of that time for gossip and goodies. We work an hour, take a half hour off, work another half hour. It's pretty cool."

Want to volunteer in Golden Valley? Contact volunteer coordinator Sandy Werts at 763-512-2341 or swerts@goldenvalleymn.gov.

Severe Weather Safety

City Response And Individual Responsibility

Summer storms are inevitable and cause grief for everyone involved. The key to getting through the aftermath is awareness, preparedness, and understanding roles and responsibilities.

Roles And Responsibilities

During a storm, the City's main priority is to monitor potential public safety issues. Citizens need to seek shelter immediately after hearing warning sirens to keep themselves safe.

"You see people out at a softball game, they hear the siren and don't go anywhere," says Steve Baker, fire education specialist. "If you hear it, severe weather is close."

Hennepin County upgraded its severe weather siren warning system from four alert zone areas to 20. This means more selective sounding of the warning sirens for people truly affected by approaching severe weather.

Don't wait until you hear sirens before you try to find a safe place, says Baker. Identify safe places where your family could meet in case severe weather hits. At home, identify a well-protected safe place inside your house, away from windows, that everyone knows about. If a tornado is coming and you're stuck in the open, lay in the lowest place close to you, like a ditch.

After a storm, the City's priorities are to clear streets and right-of-ways of downed trees and storm debris and maintain the safety of public property. This includes monitoring City storm sewer facilities and Bassett Creek for significant obstructions and clearing them on a priority basis. The City is not responsible for collecting downed trees from private property. Only

in the event of a widespread disaster, and by order of the City Council, can the City collect material from private property.

Citizens can help keep the community safe by monitoring weather conditions over the next several days, taking safety precautions, keeping catch basins clear of debris so water can drain from the streets, and reporting significant storm-related issues to proper authorities (see box below). They are also asked to stay out of the way.

"One of the biggest problems I run into after severe storms pass through is when people come outside and start walking around in the dark," Baker says. "I've had to stop them or yell because they're walking into an area they don't know is dangerous."

Furthermore, that influx of traffic to the area blocks emergency response teams who are trying to get through.

"I saw a number of Golden Valley residents I knew in North Minneapolis observing the damage right after the tornados," Baker says. "I was thinking, 'what are you doing here? You're nothing but in the way.'"

If after a storm you go outside to observe the damage, keep to your immediate surroundings and wait until daylight, Baker says. Unless volunteers are called for, tend only to your own home and your next-door neighbor's home.

Where To Report Problems

Power Outages

To report a power outage, or to receive outage information or restoration estimates, call Xcel Energy's outage line 1-800-895-1999.

Public Safety Issues

If you see a downed power line, stay away from it, report it to Xcel Energy, and call 911. Golden Valley police and firefighters will assess the situation and secure the area.

Street Flooding

To report a flooded street that may be impassable, call 911.

Downed Trees and Branches

To report a downed tree blocking a public street or sidewalk, call 911.

Awareness Is Vital

Awareness and preparation are keys for protecting yourself during severe weather, says Baker. But when you find yourself in the thick of it, the best thing to remember is to never underestimate the power of nature.

For public and personal safety purposes, don't drive on flooded streets, stay away from downed power lines, and never drive around barricades.

Often people try, Baker says. They underestimate the danger and find themselves in a rescue situation. Even if it doesn't result in major injury, it can still tie up valuable resources that would have been put to use elsewhere, says Fire Chief John Crelly.

If a power line is down or a fallen tree is leaning up against a power line, stay clear of the area entirely and call 911. Being near a fallen power line, even when you think the power is out, could kill you, Crelly says.

"We had a person drive over a downed power line after a storm. It got snagged on the car and became a problem for us," Crelly says. "We didn't know if it was an energized line and had to take the proper precautions for getting the man to safety. If the driver had avoided it and taken a different route, the fire department wouldn't have needed to respond. It's a chain of events. Our resources were tied up for 45 minutes."

Safety Barriers

If there's a barrier in your street, whether it's flowing water, a downed power line, a tree, or some other debris, assume your car won't be able to traverse it and find another route.

Preparation Helps

Being prepared can help reduce losses that accompany severe weather disasters. Because flooding is possible during severe storms, it's wise to protect yourself from potential damage. Check if your homeowner's insurance covers flood damage and determine if you want to add that coverage, suggests Joe Fox, water resources engineer. "Twenty-five percent of all flood damage claims come from areas outside the federally mapped flood plain," he adds.

Survival Kit

According to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, local responders may not be able to reach you immediately after a storm, or they may need to focus their efforts elsewhere, so you should prepare a severe weather survival kit that includes a flashlight and batteries, a cell phone and charger, three days' of water and food (non-perishable), durable clothing, and food for pets.

You can also protect yourself against flooding with proper landscaping and a properly functioning sump pump with a battery-operated backup, to name a few. For more information about flood protection, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/flood-plain-management.php.

Another major issue after a storm is downed trees and branches. Downed and damaged trees on private property are the responsibility of the property owner, as is removal of the resulting brush. Being prepared includes knowing where to go for help.

|| The safest route is to hire a licensed professional for tree removal. ||

Unless you are specifically trained in tree removal, refrain from removing downed trees from your property, says Baker. "I can't tell you how many people I've seen cutting trees who then get hurt, hurt someone else, or destroy someone's property," he adds.

The safest route is to hire a licensed professional for tree removal, after first checking references and verifying that licenses are valid. For clean-up, contact your garbage hauler or a tree removal service, or take brush to a yard waste disposal site.

Storms have been known to arrive without warning, but in most cases people have time to prepare. Before going out, check the radar or download severe weather apps for your phone that can alert you if dangerous weather is on its way.

For more information about the City's emergency response plan, contact Fire Chief John Crelly at 763-593-8065. 🐾



Over-The-Phone Scams On The Rise



Con-artist scams have been on the rise in Golden Valley, with about a dozen cases in the last year of an individual or business falling victim to a con. Golden Valley Crime Analyst Joanne Paul says these cons have cost the victims anywhere from \$500 to \$5,000 and, sometimes, a stolen identity.

Below Paul outlines some of the scams seen recently in Golden Valley and how to protect yourself.

Bill Payment Scam

In this scam, someone posing as a utility company contacts a small businesses claiming a recent bill payment failed to process and demanding immediate cash payment or the utility will be shut off. The scammer generally requires people to pay using a Green Dot prepaid debit card, which can be purchased at a convenience store and then used to wire money.

A legitimate utility company would never ask you to pay cash immediately, Paul says. If you get a call asking for cash or for money to be wired right away, that's a huge red flag. Hang up and contact the utility company directly.

Grandparent Scam

The "grandparent scam" involves someone calling a senior citizen and claiming to be a grandchild who, for example, has been arrested on a trip to Mexico and needs money wired to make bail. The imposter has researched the grandparent to get as much personal information as possible to effectively sell the lie. Afterwards, victims often say they could have sworn they were talking to their actual grandchild.

"They're con artists. This is what they do for a living, and they're really good at it," Paul says. "They're starting to con people who never thought they would fall for it and be a victim."

If you get a call like this, immediately call other members of your family and confirm the claims.

Medical Alert Scam

In the medical alert scam, scammers posing as sales reps offer a free service or device, such as a medical alert bracelet, in exchange for personal information. Once they get that information, they use it to steal the victim's identity. Never give out personal information over the phone unless you initiate the call and you know you're dealing with a legitimate and reputable company.

Limit Your Information Sharing

Con artists have a number of tools at their disposal to be convincing imposters, including technology that can trick caller ID to make it look like the call is coming from a family member or company.

And with all the personal information we voluntarily put online, conning people has never been easier, Paul explains. Facebook allows scammers to learn about you and your family and then build from there. Once you let your information slip away, it's out there for good.

"Limit access to your information," Paul adds. "When someone asks for vital information, like social security numbers, make sure they have a legitimate reason to need it."

Protect Yourself

Be aware of the main types of scams, and never wire money without double and triple checking identities. If you fall victim to one of these scams, call the police department. Unfortunately, most of these scammers operate outside of the country and are never caught, but the more awareness there is, the harder it is for them to victimize people.

"People work hard for their money, and they should work just as hard to protect their money, and not take everything at face value," Paul says.

To receive copies of privacy protection guidelines, contact Paul at 763-593-8058 or jpaul@goldenvalleymn.gov. 

JUNIOR POLICE ACADEMY: FUN FOR AGES 10-13



Kids ages 10–13 can get an inside look at the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) during Junior Police Academy, set for **Tues, July 22, 8 am to 4 pm**, at the GVPD, 7800 Golden Valley Rd.

Limited to 20 participants, the hands-on, interactive event includes tours, demonstrations by police and K-9s, a mock crime

scene and fingerprinting, information about SWAT and crime lab, and more. The day ends with "The Case of the Kidnapped Donuts," a chance for the kids to solve a crime and eat the evidence afterwards.

For more information or to register, contact the Police Department at 763-593-8079 or go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/juniorpoliceacademy/index.php. 

Fire Up The Grill... Safely

Grill season has arrived. Fire up the charcoal. Turn on the gas. Invite friends. Have fun. But never forget you're still dealing with fire.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), gas grills caused an annual average of 7,200 home fires between 2007 and 2011, while charcoal or other solid-fueled grills ignited an average of 1,400 home fires. These 8,800 fires caused an average of 10 deaths and 140 injuries per year, with \$96 million in property damage.

People should treat outdoor grilling with the same care as indoor cooking, says Stephen Baker, Golden Valley fire education specialist.

"Like the burners on a stove top, never leave the grill unattended when it's on," he says. "Grills produce a lot of heat, and I can't tell you how many times I've seen people melt the siding off their home."

Which leads him to his second tip: Keep the grill a reasonably safe distance from your home and other structures or vegetation.

Also, grilling on a wooden deck is never safe.

More than one-quarter of home structure fires involving grills started on a courtyard, terrace, or patio, and 29 percent started on an exterior balcony or open porch, according to the NFPA.

According to the state fire code, it's against the law to grill on a deck that's attached to a multi-family unit.

Finally, Baker says, make sure your grill is clean and well-maintained. Grease build-up will eventually ignite. And a faulty valve on a propane grill can cause pooling of flammable gas, which can be explosive.

Almost half of home outdoor fires involving grills started when a flammable or combustible gas or liquid caught fire.

It's all pretty much common sense, Baker says. If you keep the grill on a cement patio, a safe distance from your home and other wood structures, and make sure it's well-maintained and always monitored when cooking, your grill season should go off without a hitch. 

Recruitment EXPO Lets You Try Out Firefighting

If you want to know what it would be like join the Golden Valley Fire Department, the Firefighter

Recruitment Expo will give you an inside look. Attendees will get a chance to try on fire gear, put on a self-contained breathing apparatus, watch a live burn, take part in an auto extrication demo, and potentially climb the ladder trucks. Golden Valley firefighters will be on hand to answer questions about the job and discuss how they balance jobs, families, and firefighting, where they find the time, and why they keep doing it.

To be a Golden Valley firefighter, you need to be 18 years old or older, have a valid driver's license, live OR work within six

minutes of a Golden Valley fire station, and have a high school diploma or equivalency. Learn more at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/fire/firefighters/index.php. 

Firefighter Recruitment EXPO

Thursday, June 12, 6–10 pm

Fire Station 1

RSVP by June 6 to sbaker@goldenvalleymn.gov

Firefighter Recruitment Meetings

Thursday, June 26, 9:30 am & 6:30 pm

Fire Station 1

Police, Firefighters Connect With Local Youth

To build bonds with kids in the community, police and firefighters visit a different City park each week and spend time with the children from the neighborhood. They talk, give safety lectures, serve ice cream and pizza, and have fun. On hot days, the fire truck becomes the source of a gigantic sprinkler to help the kids cool down. The goal is to build partnerships that ultimately enhance crime prevention and fire safety in the community. 

Police & Fire In The Parks

* 11 am | ** 3 pm

June 11: Lions Park**

July 11: Lakeview Park*

June 18: Medley Park**

July 15: Scheid Park**

June 24: Wesley Park*

July 22: Gearty Park*

July 9: Hampshire Park**

Douglas Drive Construction Scheduled For 2016

Work on the Douglas Drive corridor reconstruction project will begin in 2016, with final touches in 2017.

Douglas Drive is a major north-south corridor in Golden Valley that was last improved in the 1960s. Public feedback in recent years has stressed the importance of long-term improvements to the corridor to make it safe and accessible for pedestrians and motorists alike.

After years in the planning stages, “the project is moving forward right now,” says Eric Seaburg, Golden Valley engineer.

The redesign project stretches from Hwy 55 to Medicine Lake Rd. Changes to Douglas Dr will include improved intersection designs with turn lanes, two roundabouts, pedestrian facilities along both sides of the road, and on-street bike lanes.

“It will be much more pedestrian-friendly,” Seaburg says.

Also, the corridor’s new design will be better able to accommodate traffic growth over the next 50 years. The roundabouts, which will be located at the cross streets of Golden Valley Rd and Sandburg Rd, were chosen due to their higher level of safety and traffic efficiency compared with regular lighted intersections.

The project includes rehabilitation of existing water and sewer utilities and placement of overhead utilities underground to improve the corridor’s aesthetics, with landscape and streetlight installations adding to the overall appearance.

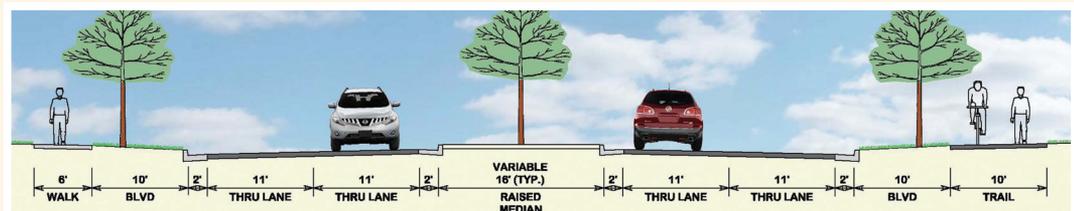
Because extra land is needed to widen the corridor to accommodate the new roadway design, partial and some full property acquisitions must be made on about 60 parcels of land.

“We are working with the first group of property owners now and will go along the corridor on a group-by-group basis,” Seaburg explains. Finalizing acquisitions, construction plans, and specs will take another year and a half, at which point Golden Valley will turn construction over to Hennepin County, which is sharing the \$20-million cost of the project with additional expenses covered by a grant from Transit for Livable Communities.

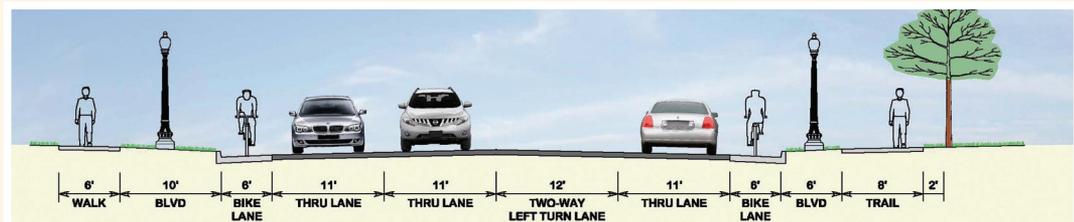
Planning for the Douglas Drive Corridor project started in 2008, when the City initiated a study that included input from City Council and Planning Commission members, staff, residents, business owners, and other interested parties.

Douglas Drive Improvements

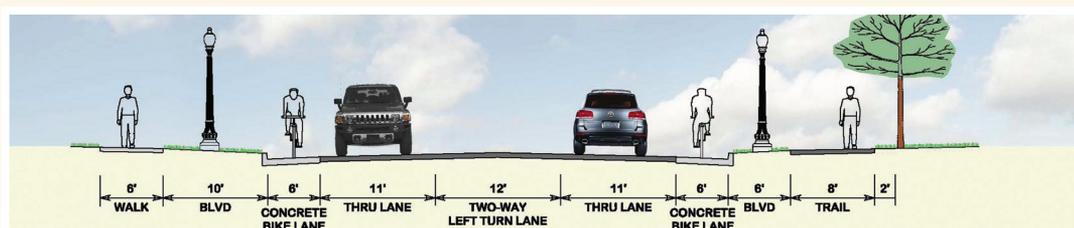
During the Corridor Study and Preliminary Design processes, Douglas Drive was divided into three distinct segments. Decisions for each segment reflect different traffic volumes, types of land use (both existing and future), and means to accommodate multiple modes of transportation. To read the complete Douglas Drive Corridor Study report and see detailed plans, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/streets/construction/douglas-drive.php.



Hwy 55 to Golden Valley Rd: Commercial area street featuring four lanes with median



Duluth St to Medicine Lake Rd: Extra-capacity community street featuring four lane section



Golden Valley Rd to Duluth St: Community street featuring three lane section

Joint Water Commission To Drill Emergency Wells

The Joint Water Commission (JWC) Cities of Golden Valley, Crystal, and New Hope have purchased treated Mississippi river water from Minneapolis for more than 60 years without incident, but as a precaution, this year they will drill three emergency wells that can be used if for any reason Minneapolis water becomes unavailable.

“Say we have a long period of drought where water levels dropped considerably and we couldn’t take water from the river, or something contaminates the Mississippi, or a catastrophe like a tornado damages one or both of the Minneapolis water plants. We could use our backup system,” says Mitch Hoeft, a Golden Valley engineer.

Water supply emergency and conservation plans are required under Minnesota State Statute (473.89).

Construction Schedule

After recently securing enough funding for the \$4 million project, the JWC will likely move forward with construction this fall. Construction costs will be shared by three Cities based on their ratio of water use, Hoeft says.

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

Should the JWC’s existing water supply be compromised, the wells would be able to provide an essential amount of water to the three communities for an indefinite period, Hoeft says, adding that the water would be chlorinated but not softened.

“The wells are not intended to be used except in an emergency,” Hoeft explains. “Hopefully we’ll never need them, but if we do, we’ll have them.”

History Of The JWC And Water Use

In 1963, the Cities of Crystal, New Hope, and Golden Valley formed the JWC 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.

The JWC reservoirs are capable of storing 28 million gallons of water, enough to meet each day’s needs for approximately four days (during normal usage). Operators often fill the reservoirs at night to be ready for another day of demands from customers. Adequate supplies must also be available to provide water for firefighters.

The three JWC Cities use about seven million gallons of water each day. Water demands of JWC customers 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. The most customers have used in a single day was 20 million gallons.

If you have questions about the JWC well project, the JWC, or City water utilities, contact Public Works at 763-593-8030. 



pedestrians & TRAFFIC



Walkers And Drivers Alike Must Be Aware Of Laws And Safe Behavior

Under Minnesota State Statute (169.21) drivers must yield to pedestrians crossing in a marked crosswalk or at an intersection with no marked crosswalk. Drivers must remain stopped until the pedestrian has passed their lane.

But while pedestrians within a crosswalk are legally protected, no pedestrian should assume a motorist will obey the law. Drivers and pedestrians must mutually honor crosswalk right-of-way rules while safeguarding themselves against unexpected reactions from the other.

In fact, pedestrians and motorists each cause about half of all pedestrian-vehicle crashes, making them equally responsible for pedestrian safety, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). Help reduce the risk of a pedestrian-vehicle crash by following the law and these safety guidelines from MnDOT.

If You're Walking

- **Look before you cross.** Watch for turning and passing vehicles, and look across ALL lanes for moving vehicles before proceeding. Clearly show your intentions to cross. Make eye contact with drivers and ensure they see you and will stop.
- **Make yourself visible to drivers.** Stand clear of buses, hedges, parked cars, or other obstacles before crossing. At night, cross in a well-lit area. Wear bright-colored clothing and reflective material. If using a wheelchair, motorized cart, or stroller, be sure to mount a safety flag.
- **Avoid dangerous and distracted behaviors.** Remove headphones and stay off cell phones while crossing. Always walk on the sidewalk; if there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic. Cross streets at marked crosswalks or intersections; don't

cross mid-block. Obey all traffic signals, but don't solely rely on traffic signals; look for vehicles before crossing.

If You're Driving

- **Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks.** Remember, every intersection is a crosswalk, even those without painted lines, signs, or stop lights. Look for and stop for crossing pedestrians when making right or left turns at intersections. Be sure to leave lots of room between you and the pedestrian when stopping.
- **Watch for pedestrians at all times.** Scan the road and sides of the road ahead for pedestrians. Before making a turn, look in all directions for pedestrians crossing. Look carefully behind your vehicle before backing up, especially for small children, and watch for people in wheelchairs and motorized carts who may be below eye level.
- **Avoid distracted and aggressive driving.** Put away the cell phones, food, and make-up. Stop for pedestrians, even when they are in the wrong or are crossing mid-block. Never pass or drive around a vehicle that is stopped for pedestrians. Obey speed limits and come to a complete stop at stop signs.

How The City Determines Where To Put Crosswalks

In Golden Valley, crosswalks are typically marked at intersections that have conflict between vehicle and pedestrian movements, where significant pedestrian concentrations occur, or where pedestrians might not otherwise recognize the proper place to cross.

The City evaluates potential crosswalk locations individually to determine whether pedestrians and motorists would be better served by marking the crosswalk, leaving it unmarked, or providing other types of safety devices.

Overuse of marked crosswalks or other devices could result in them being ignored by motorists, thereby reducing their potential positive effects. That's why the City of Golden Valley installs crosswalk markings only after carefully considering pedestrian demands, the ability for drivers to react appropriately, and potential alternative pedestrian routes and crossing locations.

If you have questions about crosswalks in Golden Valley, contact Public Works at 763-593-8030. 





PHOTO BY STAN WALDHAUSER

UPCOMING events

Concerts In The Park
Mondays, 7 pm, Brookview Park
(see page 16)

Puppet Wagon Shows
Tues & Thur, June 10–July 24
New shows weekly. Schedule at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation/youth/special-events.php.

Firefighter Recruitment Expo
Thur, June 12 | 6–10 pm
(see page 11)

Views Of The Valley Photo Contest
Fri, June 13 | 4:30 pm
(see page 16)

PUBLIC SAFETY OPEN HOUSE
Wed, June 18 | 6–8 pm
Police Dept & Fire Stations
Tours, demos, and more. For locations and a complete list of activities by Fire Station, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/openhouse/.

Water Days @ Scheid Park
1: Fri, June 20 | 12:30–2:15 pm
2: Fri, July 11 | 12:30–2:15 pm
Ages 6–14 with adult. Details at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation/youth/special-events.php.

FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION STREET DANCE
Sat, June 21 | 5–midnight
Free event sponsored by the Golden Valley Fire Relief Association to celebrate its bond with the community. Details at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/streetdance/index.php.

Firefighter Recruitment Meetings
Thur, June 26 | 9:30 am & 6:30 pm
(see page 11)

GVHSF Golf Classic
Fri, July 11 (see page 2)

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

ICE CREAM SOCIAL
Mon, July 14 | 7 pm
FREE Sebastian Joe's ice cream at the John Philip Sousa Band concert. Details at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/icecreamsocial/.

Junior Police Academy
Tues, July 22 | 8 am–4 pm
(see page 10)

Penny Carnival
Fri, July 25 | 10:30 am–12:30 pm
Brookview Park
Details at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation/youth/special-events.php.

Picnic & Music In The Park
July 29 | 11:15 am–noon
Brookview Park
Details at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation/youth/special-events.php.

Bike To The Ballpark
Aug 6 | 11:15 am –3:45 pm
(see page 6)

Movie In The Park
Aug 14 | 8:30 pm
(see page 6)

MINNESOTA NIGHT TO UNITE



Tues, Aug 5
Join your neighbors and the Golden Valley Police Department to celebrate community partnerships in preventing crime. Get together for a potluck dinner, ice cream social, barbecue, bike parade,

etc. Use your imagination and think of something fun! Register your neighborhood's party online at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/nighttounite. For more information, contact the Police Department at 763-593-8079.



Concerts In The Park

Mondays, 7 pm, Brookview Park

Enjoy free concerts at the large picnic shelter. For more information, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/concertsinthepark/ or call 763-512-2345.

- 6/9 Golden Valley Orchestra
- 6/16 Ageless
- 6/23 Plymouth Concert Band
- 6/26 Robbinsdale City Band (*Thur*)
- 6/30 Stompin' Dixie
(sponsored by Culver's)
- 7/7 The Choo Choo Bob Show
(sponsored by Lupient Buick/
GMC)
- 7/14 John Philip Sousa Band
{ICE CREAM SOCIAL}
- 7/21 The Castaways
(sponsored by Colonial Acres at
Covenant Village)
- 7/28 Mu Daiko
(sponsored by the Golden Valley
Federation of Women's Clubs)
- 7/29 Picnic & Music in the Park
with The Flyers (11:15 am-noon)
- 8/4 Calhoun Brass
- 8/11 Bob the Beachcomber

PHOTO BY STAN WALDHAUSER

VIEWS of the VALLEY

Deadline for entries is June 13 at 4:30 pm

It's that time of year again. Enter your best shots in the City's 22nd annual *Views of the Valley* photo contest. Golden Valley residents can submit up to three 5x7 color or black-and-white photo finish prints (no slides, photocopies, or prints not on photo-quality paper). Digital files are appreciated but must be accompanied by a 5x7 print on photo-quality paper. Do not mat or frame photos.

Winning entries are published in *CityNews* and the City website. First prize winners in each category receive \$50; grand prize is an additional \$50. The People's Choice winner will receive \$25. Winners will be notified in early July.

Photos are judged in three categories: Natural Golden Valley (landscapes, flora, fauna, etc); Golden Valley Lifestyle (cityscapes, buildings, people, activities, etc); and Enhanced (photos significantly altered by editing software, lenses, etc). Public voting for the People's Choice award will take place June 17-30 at City Hall and online at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/photocontest/index.php.

To enter, attach a completed entry form to each photo and mail or drop off at Golden Valley City Hall before 4:30 pm on June 13.

To read complete rules and print entry forms, visit www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/photocontest/. You may also call 763-593-8004.



REST TIME BY PATRICK O'ROURKE (2011), RASPBERRY INVADER BY SARAH O'ROURKE (2013), A CLOSER LOOK BY AMY SANDS (2012)

Annual Drinking Water Report Available Online

As required by the US Environmental Protection Agency, all community water systems must distribute an annual drinking water report to their customers before July 1. Golden Valley's is available at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/watersewer/water/index.php. Paper copies are available upon request from 763-593-8030.

