



cityNEWS



◦ MANAGING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

With input from the community, Golden Valley is developing a Natural Resources Management Plan.

SEE PAGE 5

Photo by Jonathan Hanson
Views of the Valley 2014

DOUGLAS DRIVE PROJECT

Construction starts this summer.

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cityHEADLINES

Looming Infrastructure Crisis

Understanding Magnitude Is First Step In Prevention

There's a looming crisis facing the City of Golden Valley—the same crisis facing most cities in Minnesota and the nation at large. It's a crisis involving the stuff under our feet, the places we can't see, and the things we don't think about. It's a crisis of infrastructure.

“This isn't about faster internet connections. This is about the things that we need to live,” says Tom Burt, Golden Valley city manager. “Infrastructure comprises all the basic structures and facilities that make a society habitable.”

Out Of Sight, Out Of Mind

When you flush your toilet, how often do you think about where the contents go? How it's cleaned? Where fresh water comes from? What transports it? How those systems are maintained? How old they are?

One reason this has become so pressing is most of the infrastructure in question is out of sight, out of mind, so it's easy to keep putting it off, Burt says. People often take these systems for granted, until they stop working.

The majority of the unseen infrastructure we use daily was installed by our grandparents. Not only is it a half a century or more old, but as populations grow, it's taking on service demands it was not built to handle. Right now, that infrastructure is maintained and patched up as problems arise.

“If there's a hole in a pipe, you can put a clamp on it, but that just moves the problem farther down,” Burt says. “Eventually, the entire pipe has to be replaced.”

And while replacing that pipe saves a large amount of money in the long run, the single up-front cost is significantly higher than the annual costs of just patching it up, year after year, which can seem more appealing when you don't think about how much those costs add up, Burt says.

A water main break, for example, costs about \$10,000 to fix. Golden Valley had about 10 water main breaks per year in the 1960s. That has jumped to about 20–30 per year today. Without pipe rehabilitation, that number is expected to double again in

the next two decades, eventually hitting more than 100 breaks (and \$1 million in repair costs) per year by 2060. That's just one small part of the overall infrastructure problem, which has reached a point where slapping on Band-Aids no longer does the trick.

When you flush your toilet, and it enters a system of pipes never designed to handle the volume it now has flowing through it, that extra sewage will spill over somewhere, possibly in someone's basement.

“If we don't start addressing this right now, it will become an even bigger and more expensive liability in the future,” Burt says. “The last thing people want is sewage in their basements.”

Developing A Strategic Plan

Like most state municipalities, the City of Golden Valley has recognized this oncoming infrastructure crisis and is developing plans to prevent it.

The first step is to help people wrap their heads around how big the issue is, Burt says.

It's not just sewer and water systems. It's roads and bridges, effective police and fire equipment, and 60-year-old government buildings. It's outdated construction equipment, dump trucks, computers, mowers, play structures, and park shelters.

Rebuilding and renewing this infrastructure is not just crucial for our quality of life, but also for the quality of life of generations to come, Burt says.

Staff is working with the City Council to develop a strategic plan to outline project priorities and budgeting solutions. The plan, which would be implemented beginning in 2016, has a long-term goal to keep taxes and utility expenses lower than they inevitably would be if this infrastructure problem is allowed to grow into a full-blown crisis.

Watch *CityNews* for updates on the City's approach to rehabilitating its infrastructure. 

www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe/

Never miss another headline. Subscribe to news from the City of Golden Valley, tailored to your interests and delivered straight to your inbox.

Run The Valley April 11

It's not too early to plan for Golden Valley's annual *Run the Valley*. In fact, you can save money by registering now to join your neighbors April 11 for the 21st anniversary of this 5K/10K fund-raising event. In 2014, *Run the Valley* drew 452 participants and 40 volunteers, and raised \$15,420 for the Golden Valley Human Services Fund, which allocates the money to local human service organizations that benefit the community.



How To Register

- Online at www.zapevent.com and www.active.com by April 9 (additional fees apply)
- Download form from City website and submit by April 10 with payment by mail to 200 Brookview Parkway, 55426 or by fax (763-512-2344)
- In person at Brookview Community Center
- On race day, from 7–7:45 am at Brookview Community Center

Entry fee is \$30 by Feb 28, \$35 March 1–April 10 (by 3 pm), and \$40 on race day. Includes long-sleeved moisture-wick T-shirt, race number, and chip timing. Children 12 and under may register for \$20 when accompanied by an adult entry (youth fee includes T-shirt and race number only). To be eligible for a medal, chip timing must be used. T-shirt sizes guaranteed if registered by March 1. For the 0.2K Kids Fun Run the fee is \$5, which includes a race number and a ribbon. All proceeds are allocated to non-profit organizations that serve Golden Valley residents in need.

Last year's corporate sponsors were Bassett Creek Dental, Channel 12/NWCT, City of Golden Valley, and Liberty

Carton/LDI. Other sponsors included 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– 94, Pilgrim Cleaners, Road ID, Valley Pastries, and Yoplait USA.

For more information or to volunteer, visit www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/runthevalley/ or call Parks and Recreation at 763-512-2345. 🏃

2015 Run The Valley Sat, April 11

- 7:45 am for 0.2K Kids Fun Run
 - 8 am for 10K race
 - 8:10 am for 5K race
 - 8:15 am for the 5K walk (5K and 10K races will be chip-timed)
- Start and finish at Brookview Community Center, 200 Brookview Parkway S. Certified course runs through residential Golden Valley. Water stops and post-race complimentary snacks donated by area businesses.

GVHSF Allocates \$44,000 For 2015

Since 1992, the Golden Valley Human Services Fund (GVHSF) has worked to support organizations that serve Golden Valley residents, providing a total of \$1,422,502 in funding.

Each year, this board of citizen volunteers reviews requests and allocates funds raised by the GVHSF through various annual fundraisers such as April's Run the Valley and July's Golden Valley Golf Classic.

For 2015, the GVHSF allocated \$44,000 to 10 local human service organizations: Canvas Health/Crisis Connection (\$2,000), Northwest Suburban Dinner at Your Door (\$8,000), PRISM (\$7,000), Second Harvest Heartland (\$3,000), Senior Commu-

nity Services HOME Program (\$5,000), Senior Community Services Outreach (\$2,000), Sojourner Project (\$5,000), The Bridge For Youth (\$4,000), and Tree House (\$3,000), and YMCA-New Hope (\$5,000).

For more information about GVHSF activities, events, and funding criteria, or to join the list of contributors and volunteers, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/boards/gvhsf/index.php or call 763-512-2345. 🏃



In GV, Recycling Options Abound



The City of Golden Valley has provided various recycling services since 1987. They are funded through user fees on utility bills and a grant from Hennepin County.

Curbside Recycling Pick-Up

Recycling pick-up is every other Friday for curbside customers. Residents are in either the blue service week or the gray service week (see map at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recycling/curbside/pdf/recycling-weeks.pdf).

On collection day, have your recycling cart at the curb by 6:30 am (late set-outs do not qualify as missed pick-ups). Make sure carts are off the street, cart handles and wheels face away from the street, and carts are placed 3–5 feet away from other objects (trash containers, mail boxes, cars, trees, bushes, etc).

If your pick-up week falls during one of Republic Services' holiday weeks (unless holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday), pick-up will be on Saturday of that week (see schedule below). Questions? Call Republic Services at 952-941-5174.

Scheduled Recycling For Special Items

Golden Valley's curbside recycling program also makes it possible to recycle appliances and electronics by scheduling a pick-up and placing the items at the curb. Residents must call Republic Services at 952-941-5174 one week ahead of their normal recycling service day to schedule a pickup. Fees range from \$25-\$45, depending on the appliance or electronic device. The exact fee will be determined when you call. Remember: Place these items at the curb separate from the recycling cart.

Seasonal Services

The Spring Brush Pick-Up and Fall Leaf Drop-Off provide residents with a way to get rid of yard waste at certain times of the year. Get details at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/yards/waste.php.

Mighty Tidy Day allows residents to unload unwanted items like old mattresses and sofas, broken bicycles, ancient appliances, old tires, outdated computers, televisions, and other things piling up around your home at Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day. Fees apply. Details at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recycling/mightytidyday/index.php.

Hennepin County Offers Services For Almost Any Recycling Need

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

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

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

Fix-It Clinic—At Hennepin County's Fix-it-Clinics, you can bring in small household appliances, clothing, electronics, mobile devices, and more and receive free guided assistance from volunteers with repair skills to disassemble, troubleshoot, and fix the items. You must be able to carry items in; no oversized items are accepted. For more information, go to www.hennepin.us/residents/recycling-hazardous-waste/fix-it-clinics. 

Golden Valley Recycles

GRAY Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Memorial Day	Sat, May 30
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 28
Christmas	Sat, Dec 26

BLUE Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Labor Day	Sat, Sept 12
New Year's 2016	Sat, Jan 2

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.

Managing Our Natural Resources

City Develops Plan With Community Input

How does a community determine ways to help preserve, protect, restore, and enhance its nature areas and open spaces? Golden Valley is developing a Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) to guide decision makers and staff on how to best manage natural resources (water, land,

vegetation, and wildlife) based on the community's vision, goals, objectives, and policies.

The non-statistical survey, which was announced in the September/October 2014 *CityNews* and posted on the City website from Sept 30 to Nov 7, drew 43 responses (see highlights below).

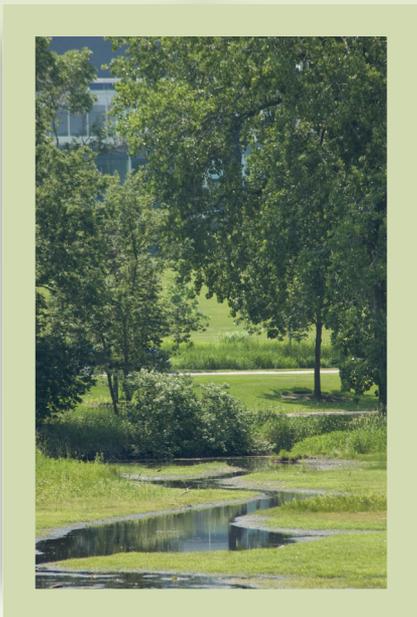
Complete survey results will be included in the text of the NRMP, which is scheduled for completion in winter 2015.

The NRMP

The completed NRMP will be incorporated into the City's 2018 comprehensive plan update, set to begin in 2015. It will:

- prioritize areas to preserve or enhance
- develop management strategies and action plans for specific natural areas, including invasive species management
- identify partnerships and grant opportunities to help the City achieve its natural resource objectives
- identify opportunities to provide natural resource education and community involvement, including volunteer opportunities

For more information about the NRMP, contact Eric Eckman at 763-593-8084 or eckman@goldenvalleymn.gov.



The Survey

To get input from citizens, the City developed a survey asking a range of questions about Golden Valley's nature areas and open spaces, including which ones people visit, satisfaction with the quality of these areas, what could be changed to improve them, and what would be most effective in protecting them.

Natural Resources Survey Highlights



Most visited nature area:
Bassett Creek Nature Area

Favorite nature area:
Mary Hills Nature Area



Top reasons for visiting the nature areas:
Exercise, viewing nature or wildlife, and relaxation



Most effective way to protect Golden Valley's natural resources:
Through acquisition of land or easements, followed by education



Although most respondents are satisfied with the City's natural resources, the following suggestions resonated throughout the survey responses:

- Increase the size and number of nature areas and open spaces
- Market them better
- Control invasive species (eg, buckthorn) and establish more areas of native vegetation
- Add new or maintain existing amenities like trails, signage, benches, waste/recycle receptacles, pet waste stations, etc
- Increase natural resource education and volunteer efforts

Recreation Highlights

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

Youth

American Red Cross Babysitting (ages 11–15)—March 14, 8 am–4:30 pm, Brookview, \$77.

Adult

Ballroom Dancing for Beginners—Feb 8–March 1, 4:30–6 pm, Brookview, \$55

Beginner Pickleball Clinic—March 22, 3:30–4:30 pm, Davis, \$5.

Adult Softball Leagues—Team registration open for Men and Co-Rec. Download registration packet on City website.

Davis Community Center Open

Gyms—8–10 pm: Mon (35+ Basketball), Tues/Thur (18+ Volleyball); 8–10 am: Sat (18+ Basketball); 1–3 pm: Sun (Family Gym Time); 3–5 pm: Sun (18+ Pickleball).

Seniors

Money Matters—Feb 19: “Investing 102, The Senior Version,” March 19: “Getting the Best Price For Your Home.” 10–11:15 am, Brookview.

Coffee Talk—Feb 25: “The Many Faces of a Firefighter,” March 25: “Crimes of Opportunity.” 9:45 am, Brookview, \$2 at door.

Living Wise and Well—March 5: “Meet the Pharmacist.” 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.



City Receives Youth Sports Program Grant

Golden Valley will receive \$325,000 for athletic facility improvements at Sandburg Learning Center thanks to a grant from the Hennepin Youth Sports Program. The program recently awarded its 2015 facilities grants to 14 public organizations.

The Sandburg improvements project is the result of a partnership among the City of Golden Valley, School District 281, the Park Valley Soccer Association, and the Armstrong-Cooper Youth Baseball Association.

“All the partners are thrilled with this opportunity,” says Rick Birno, director of parks and recreation. “It’s going to have a major impact on delivering youth athletics to Golden Valley as well as all over the north suburban area.”

The City will use the grant to improve the baseball and soccer fields at Sandburg as well as provide better access to convenient parking. Work is scheduled to begin in spring 2015 and be completed in October.

Sandburg Learning Center is a principal location for Armstrong-Cooper Youth Baseball and soccer for Golden Valley and surrounding communities. The two youth full-sized baseball fields built in the early 1970s have not had any capital improvements since. The soccer fields are positioned over three old softball fields and a running track. Along with several key environmental improvements to the area, proposed upgrades include:

- replacing old block dugouts with new fenced dugouts
- adding permanent outfield fence to both fields
- removing the old softball fields and running track and re-grading the soccer field area
- replacing failing irrigation to the baseball fields and adding irrigation to the soccer fields
- installing proper drainage and storm water management facilities
- constructing trails from the west parking lot to all fields

Without the Hennepin County grant, this project would not have moved forward, Birno says. The grant will cover a bulk of the project’s budget, which is roughly \$700,000. The rest of the funding will be split among the partners involved.

The Hennepin Youth Sports Program awards capital grants to local governments to build, repair, renovate or expand youth sports facilities in Hennepin County. The State of Minnesota law authorizing the building of Target Field allows Hennepin County to use proceeds from the 0.15% sales tax surcharge to award more than \$2 million each year for sports facilities and equipment. Since 2009, the program has awarded more than \$13 million to communities throughout Hennepin County. This same amount has been used to keep Hennepin County libraries open on Sundays as well. 

City Offers Many Seasonal Employment Opportunities

The City of Golden Valley hires almost 100 seasonal employees each year to help with Brookview Golf Course, parks and recreation, athletics, and maintenance.

Starting this year, the City is posting these position openings a little earlier than normal so people have a chance to interview over spring break, says Chantell Knauss, assistant city manager.

It's a great opportunity, but a lot of people don't realize the City hires seasonal staff, Knauss says. These full-time positions work well for students looking to find summer work, and the part-time jobs work well to supplement other employment.

Those who get their applications in by Feb 28 will have first consideration, Knauss says, but the City will continue to take applications into spring.

To apply, visit www.goldenvalleymn.gov/jobs. Brief job descriptions are below (several positions have more than one opening).

Parks & Recreation

Playground Leader—Plan summer afternoon playground programs with a partner and work with youth specialty programs such as Preschool Programs, Drama Club, Hiking/Biking, etc.



Assistant Playground Leader—Work with playground staff on programs with overflow registration.

Athletic Instructor—Instruct youth ages 4–12 in various athletic programs. Be a positive role model, have patience, and have a non-competitive attitude and fun coaching philosophy.

Assistant Athletic Instructor—Work with athletic staff on programs with overflow registration.

Softball Umpires & Field Attendants—Umpires officiate at league and tournament softball games, and field attendants monitor recreation activities at athletic fields.

Brookview Golf Course

Pro Shop—Collect fees, answer phones, sell merchandise, keep Pro Shop clean, open and secure building, assist with tournaments and leagues, provide limited food and beverage service, and other duties as assigned.

Grill/Beverage Cart—Cook and serve fast food items, operate a cash register, clean grill area and stock supplies, sell food and beverages on the golf course, and other duties as assigned.



Par 3 Attendant—Collect green fees, open and secure building, keep area clean, sell merchandise and beverages, answer phones and take reservations, start off and keep groups orderly, and other duties as assigned.

Driving Range Attendant—Sell and clean golf balls and carts, operate cash register, open and secure buildings/equipment, drive picker vehicle and pick range daily, arrange and run golf carts daily, and other duties as assigned.

Starter/Rangers—Check tickets, keep play moving smoothly, patrol and correct/enforce any rule infractions, arrange and run golf carts daily, and other duties as assigned.

Custodian—Run golf carts as needed, pick up/remove trash, do light cleaning and minor repairs to buildings/grounds, wash golf carts every Monday and Friday, and other duties as assigned.



Maintenance Maintenance workers perform routine tasks such as weeding, raking, watering, hand mowing, edging, shoveling, litter pick-up, and cleaning and repairing trails, grounds and other public facilities. They also prepare and maintain baseball and soccer fields and the golf course and assist other employees with other park, building, and right-of-way repair tasks and street, water, sewer, storm sewer, and golf course maintenance.

Seasonal positions are available in the City's Parks, Streets, and Utilities (water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer) Maintenance Divisions and in the Brookview Golf Course Maintenance Division. All positions involve outdoor work and physical labor.

To apply or to get more information, visit www.goldenvalleymn.gov/jobs.



Douglas Drive Reconstruction

Project Begins This Summer, Ends In 2017

Work is set to begin on Douglas Drive (County Rd 102) this summer, after six years of planning by the City and Hennepin County to reconstruct the road from Hwy 55 to Medicine Lake Rd.

“The City put more time into planning this project than it will take to do the actual construction,” says Eric Seaburg, Golden Valley engineer and project manager.

The roadway construction will take a year and a half and will be split into three segments to avoid closing too much of Douglas Dr at any one time. Even the portions of road under construction will allow for through traffic, Seaburg says.

“We want construction to go as smoothly as possible,” he says.

Golden Valley took a big-picture approach to studying the Douglas Drive corridor, considering not only roadway improvements but future business and residential needs. Using community input from Envision Golden Valley, the City designed the corridor to serve the area’s needs for the next 50 years.

The upgraded Douglas Dr will feature additional sidewalks, turn lanes, redesigned intersections, widened right-of-ways, new landscaping, and relocated utilities, which will improve connectivity, traffic flow, pedestrian safety, and aesthetics.

Furthermore, the 50-year-old road is one of the oldest in the city, and without a complete overhaul, it would continue to degrade very quickly, says Seaburg.

“Right now, when we put a new layer of asphalt on the road, it’s kind of like putting on a Band-Aid,” Seaburg says. And that Band-Aid is not enough to withstand the projected increase in traffic demand over the next few decades, making this project a priority.

Douglas Dr 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.

While the roadway construction of this joint Hennepin County–Golden Valley project isn’t scheduled to begin until spring 2016, with final touch-ups in 2017, utility companies will start work in 2015 to bury above-ground utilities and relocate others. Roadway construction will also include rehabilitation of existing water and sewer utilities, as they are located beneath the road.

Easements A Necessity

“This is a huge infrastructure project with a lot of moving parts,” Seaburg says. In fact, it’s one of the largest construction projects the City has tackled in decades.



Upgrading Douglas Drive will improve the current pedestrian amenities.



“There are a lot of infrastructure needs, and a lot of what we need to do doesn’t fit into the existing public right-of-way,” Seaburg says. “To do this properly, we need the necessary easements.”

The City has been working with property owners for up to several years to acquire the land needed for the project. In most situations, it’s a matter of acquiring a few feet of land, Seaburg says, but there are a handful of properties that have greater needs or need to be bought out completely.

When the City needs to purchase land, a professional appraiser conducts a property value assessment to determine the fair market price of the property. That assessment is then reviewed by a separate professional appraiser to ensure accuracy. The property owners then receive the appraised amount for their property as well as relocation benefits.

With the more than 50 various acquisitions the City needs for this project, staff and consultants have been very involved in working with the many landowners to reach agreements.

More Access, More Flow

With the acquired right-of-way, the City will be able to build pedestrian friendly—and wheelchair accessible—walkways, as well as bike trails. The extra width will also allow for needed space to bury utilities and add turn lanes.

“Currently, Douglas Dr is much narrower than a majority of Hennepin County roadways, as it’s one of the oldest ones,” Seaburg says.

Intersections along the 1.7-mile stretch will either have traffic signal and turn-lane redesigns or they will be reconstructed into roundabouts.

Roundabouts, to be located at both the Golden Valley Rd and Sandburg Rd intersections, were chosen due to their higher level of safety and traffic efficiency compared with regular signal-controlled intersections.

All these changes will improve vehicle and pedestrian traffic flow dramatically and make the corridor more malleable to future development, Seaburg says.



Potential roundabout at Douglas Dr and Golden Valley Rd

Project History

Planning for the Douglas Drive Corridor project started in 2008, when the City initiated a study that included research and input from City Council and Planning Commission members, staff, residents, business owners, and other interested parties. Nearly 70 residents attended an October 2008 planning workshop at City Hall. A second workshop in August 2009 solidified project goals and a long-term vision for the area.

After the City Council approved the Douglas Drive Corridor Study report, it was added to the City’s Comprehensive Plan in a 2010 update. Later that year, a \$1,050,000 grant from Transit for Livable Communities enabled City staff to begin preliminary design work for the road project, guided by the community’s long-term vision for the Douglas Drive Corridor.

Transit for Livable Communities and Hennepin County approved the preliminary layout design in summer 2011, but several more public input meetings were held before the City Council gave municipal consent to the final plans.

The project will move forward with an estimated cost of \$20 million split between Hennepin County and the City in accordance with County policy.

To read the complete Douglas Drive Corridor Study report and see detailed plans, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/streets/construction/douglas-drive.php.

The Dangers Of Distracted Driving

Three Golden Valley Accidents Illustrate What Happens When You Don't Pay Attention

Each year in Minnesota, distracted or inattentive driving is a factor in one in four crashes, resulting in at least 70 deaths and 350 serious injuries, according to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

Any distraction while you're driving—eating, a pet that won't sit still, a child that's not belted in, a GPS device on your lap, a cell phone at your ear, or of course, texting (which is statistically more dangerous than driving while drunk)—significantly increases your chance of crashing, says Dave Born, Golden Valley police sergeant.

Sometimes it seems like people treat driving as a part-time job, like there's no need to keep all focus on the very dangerous task at hand, he adds.

The three photos* to the right are of accidents in Golden Valley that were the result of distracted driving.

"People become complacent," Born says, "because 99 percent of the time, everything works out, but then that one time they look down at the wrong moment, and smash."

Your car can travel the length of a football field in the time it takes to glance down at a radio or other device. Until a crash happens, people get lulled by an illusion that it won't happen to them.

"As soon as the phone rings in the car, they pick it up," says Born. "But no phone call is so important that it would override crashing. I can guarantee you, once the crash happens, you will regret picking up that phone."

Driving is a full-time job that requires all of your attention, concludes Born, and if you don't respect that, you could end up in a crash similar to those shown here. 

* Photos were specifically selected to feature crashes that involved no fatalities and no serious injuries.



In this particular crash, the car veered off Hwy 55 across two lanes of oncoming traffic and through a wall around an outdoor pool. Sgt Born suspected it all happened because the driver turned around for a moment to address a child in the back seat.



This rollover was the result of the driver not paying attention to the road while adjusting radio knobs, Born says. The bumper sticker reads: "No Problem. Roll Me Over."



The driver of the truck had looked away and didn't notice the traffic had stopped, Born says. Things on the road happen much faster than most people allow time for.

GIVING BACK : WHY PAID ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS DO WHAT THEY DO

If you ask firefighters why they do it, most will tell you they wanted to give back or help the community. Here are two Golden Valley examples:

DOM GUZMAN

Shortly after moving to Golden Valley, Dom Guzman was out jogging one day when he ran past a recruitment ad for the Golden Valley Fire Department. At first, he didn't take the idea seriously.

"When I got home, I joked about it with my wife," says Guzman, a school teacher and father of three.

Guzman says he used to coach various K-12 sports, including football, basketball, and T-ball, but he stopped after he moved to a new school district.

"I found myself missing something," he says. The idea of becoming a paid on-call firefighter suddenly didn't seem so laughable.

Guzman attended a firefighter recruitment meeting to get more information. Once he passed the screening process two years ago, he began the six-month training period and now answers calls regularly on evenings and weekends.

"It's a lot of fun and a good learning experience that gives me a whole new set of skills," Guzman says. "If you have that extra time, it's a great way to give back."

And while he's learning new skills on the job, he says he also enjoys the opportunity to teach others about fire safety. The Roseville elementary school where he teaches often requests that he bring his gear and talk to the kids about firefighting.

"There's a lot of pride in it," Guzman says

**School Teacher.
Father Of Three.
Firefighter.**

Dom
New Recruit, ????

goldenvalleyfire.com



ANNE SAFFERT

Anne Saffert doesn't shy away from challenges. In fact, she's inspired by them.

When she attended Golden Valley's fire recruitment expo five years ago, she says she remembered recruiter Stephen Baker telling her that being an on-call firefighter is a really tough commitment.

"In that moment I thought, 'yeah, I'm going to do this,'" Saffert says. The challenge appealed to her. As a stay-at-home mom and former accountant, firefighting sounded like a good change-of-pace while also giving her a way to give back to the community.

Saffert says before she was a firefighter, there was a major health emergency in her family and the Golden Valley community stepped up to help in a big way.

"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."

As for juggling the challenge of firefighting with the commitments of her home life, Saffert says she's found a good balance.

"I'm older and a female and have three children who really rely on me," she says. "But my family is very happy and excited for me, and the department knows that my family comes first."

**Accountant.
Stay-At-Home Mom.
Firefighter.**

Anne
New Recruit, 2011

goldenvalleyfire.com



GETTING STARTED

First-year firefighters attend two nights of training per week, for 160 hours of training in the first six months. They come away with new or refined skills in search and rescue, emergency medical, hazmat management, auto extrication, critical thinking under pressure, emergency vehicle driving, and of course, firefighting.

If you are at least 18 and live or work within six minutes of a Golden Valley fire station, you could become part of Golden Valley's proud tradition of paid on-call firefighters.

For more information, go to www.goldenvalleyfire.com.

Managing Snow In Golden Valley

City Operations And Ordinances Put Safety First

Every winter, City crews maintain 120 miles of local streets and 43 miles of sidewalk. It's a critical responsibility with safety and mobility as the focus.

Plowing & De-icing

To keep traffic moving, City crews first plow collector and arterial streets that connect neighborhoods to State and County roads. State and County roads (Hwy 55, Winnetka Ave, etc) are maintained by those agencies, not by the City.

The City may call a snow emergency after snow accumulates to two inches or more. However, snow accumulation from consecutive snowfall events of less than two inches may initiate plowing and a snow emergency.

Depending on weather conditions, de-icing crews use a variation of salt/sand-salt mixture on areas of concern. Priority areas are treated first, and all other areas are done when time permits. Priority areas include:

- major roads
- hills and sharp curves
- school areas
- areas deemed hazardous by maintenance or police staff

Safety Around Snowplows

Efficient, effective snow removal requires public cooperation. Please follow these important reminders to help stay safe this winter:

- Reduce speed and keep a minimum distance of 100 feet from snowplows (frequent backing is necessary, and rear visibility is very limited).
- Never drive into a snow cloud or pass plows while they're plowing.
- Stay away from the end of a driveway when a snowplow is approaching.

- Keep sleds and toys away from the street when they're not being used.
- Never build snow forts or snow sculptures in the snow piles along the street.
- Keep garbage cans and recycling carts in the driveway and off roadways and sidewalks.

Winter Parking Restrictions

In summer 2014, the City Council amended the City Code to prohibit parking on public streets and alleys Nov 1–March 31 from midnight–6 am daily. Vehicles may be parked on private property in parking lots and driveways. This change was based on input from residents expressing concerns about safety and how parked vehicles impact snow and ice removal. (To request a temporary exemption, fill out the online "Winter Parking Waiver" form at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/permits/index.php.)

Parking is also prohibited on public streets after a snowfall of at least two inches until the snow has stopped falling and the street has been plowed to the curb line. During a large snowstorm the City may plow a street multiple times. Keeping parked vehicles off the street helps crews efficiently and effectively clear the snow. Vehicles in violation are cited by patrolling police. Vehicles found to be obstructing traffic or snowplows, and those still in violation after 24 hours, may be towed.

This winter, stay informed. Sign up for Golden Valley snow emergency email alerts at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe. Listen to weather forecasts and adjust travel plans accordingly.

For more information about snow removal in Golden Valley, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/streets/maintenance.php or call Public Works at 763-593-8030. 

Reminders For Private Property Owners

Snow Removal—Minnesota State Statute (169.42) and City Code Section 8.08 prohibit removing snow and ice from private property (including driveways and parking lots) to a roadway, across a roadway, or onto a sidewalk or adjacent property. If you or your plowing contractor have questions regarding this, contact Public Works at 763-593-8030 or publicworksdept@goldenvalleymn.gov.

Mail Boxes—The City is not liable for damages to obstructions in the road right-of-way (irrigation heads, basketball hoops, free library boxes, landscaping, etc). These obstructions should be removed from the right-of-way. The City will only repair mailboxes actually hit by a plow and installed to United States Postal Service Residential Mailbox Standards (for details, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/streets/maintenance.php). Sod damage can be reported to the City at 763-593-8030 in the spring. Damages to sod are repaired each spring with black dirt and seed.



Home Maintenance Plans

Protecting Your Property In Cold Weather

Often homeowners hunker down in winter and hold off on property maintenance issues until spring, but some issues are worth tending to in the colder months, says Dave Gustafson, property maintenance inspector.

Weather Sealing And Rodent Blocking

Taking the time to repair holes in windows, doors, and ceilings, and using weather sealant on windows will save you a substantial amount of money on energy costs, Gustafson says.

Also, cold weather means more rodents will try to get into your home, shed, or garage, so patching up cracks, gaps, and holes helps keep them out.

“Rodents are trying to find warm places and will look for ways to get in,” Gustafson says. “They can get through the smallest holes without too much trouble.”

There may be more holes than you think, since cold temperatures warp building materials and open gaps in unseen areas, like around the chimney flue, next to recessed lights, or in the attic.

Use caulk to weather strip windows and doors and fill skinny gaps; polyurethane foam can fill medium-sized gaps.

Lastly, attached garages should be weather-sealed. Garage doors are notorious for cold leaks, Gustafson says. Often people don’t realize how much heat energy they lose through the garage.

Ice Dams

A fully sealed and insulated attic prevents another winter weather maintenance problem: ice dams.

Ice dams form when the heat of an inadequately insulated attic causes snow to melt and trickle toward the edges of the roof. Because the attic heat does not affect the soffit near the gutters, the water refreezes and ice slowly accumulates. Subsequent melted water pools at the dam, backs up, and sometimes leaks through the roof, soffits, and gutters, creating dangerous icicles and inner-wall damage.

Snow accumulation on a roof insulates the attic below, contributing to the initial melting. This, combined with below-average temperatures, leads to ripe conditions for ice dams and headaches for homeowners.

To prevent ice dams, replace or increase the attic insulation, improve attic ventilation, and seal any air leakage paths between the house and attic. Air leaks are possible anywhere there is a penetration into the attic space around plumbing pipes, light fixtures, wiring clamps, and poorly insulated attic heat ducts.

The removal of ice dams is very dangerous, and it’s best to hire a professional to clear them, Gustafson says.

Clearing The Walk

Golden Valley City ordinances require rental property owners to clear adjacent walkways of snow, Gustafson says, and while homeowners aren’t required to do so, it’s the neighborly thing to do.

Just make sure not to pile the snow near the end of the driveway, as the high banks can obstruct your view of oncoming traffic when you back out. Also, keeping snow piles away from the street makes it safer for when kids play on them.

Clearing snow from walkways and driveways also makes it much easier for firefighters and other emergency professionals to access your home if necessary. By the same token, clearing snow around fire hydrants can save firefighters valuable seconds in case your home catches fire.

Salt

Finally, if you’re going to use salt to melt ice from your walkways, remember that it can cause severe damage to your lawn come spring and that it is harmful to local waterways. Some types of ice-melting chemicals are easier on your lawn than others, but no matter what kind you’re using, it’s always best to follow the instructions on the container and use as little as possible, Gustafson says. 

In Winter, Drive Slowly And Carry A Big Ice Scraper

Minnesotans pride themselves on the hard-core winter driving experience that's a by-product of living in the great white north; however, the first real snowfall of the season can prompt the realization that a few safety reminders couldn't hurt.

Use Common Sense

When it comes to safer winter driving, common sense is your best defense. Follow standard cautionary considerations. Be patient and slow down. Accelerate and decelerate gradually. Allow extra following distance for more time to maneuver or stop.

Know how your vehicle handles, as front-wheel drive and rear-wheel drive vehicles behave differently in slippery conditions. Be extra cautious when driving an unfamiliar car.

Drive Deliberately

Do not use cruise control on slippery surfaces. Watch out for ice on bridges, low points, and shaded areas. Use signals and brake lights to communicate your intentions to other drivers. When approaching congestion in heavy traffic, be conscious of possible escape maneuvers. If possible, do not stop when going up hills, and if you are already stuck, do not spin the vehicle's wheels.

No Peephole Driving

"Peephole driving," or the practice of scraping only a small portion of the windshield before driving away, dramatically reduces the driver's field of vision and increases the chance of crashing.



In addition, excess ice from your vehicle could dislodge, become airborne, and strike other vehicles. For the safety of everyone on the road, make sure your vehicle is clear of ice and snow before you drive.

Before leaving the driveway or parking lot, properly clear all snow and frost from your vehicle (see graphic below). Road grime can also decrease visibility.

Plan Ahead

Plan your trip to allow extra time for winter delays or detours. More idling time may take more fuel, so keep the tank filled. This helps prevent gas line freeze-ups too, especially for older cars and fuel mixtures without ethanol.

For longer trips, monitor weather reports and consider not traveling if it becomes hazardous. When planning your trip, determine alternative routes you can take if needed. Always let someone know the planned route, possible alternatives, and your estimated time of arrival. Do not travel alone when possible.

Pack emergency supplies in the vehicle (see graphic below) and make sure your cell phone is charged.



When Things Settle Down

While it's obvious that driving during a snowstorm requires our full attention, there is a risk of being too complacent when conditions are generally less treacherous.

It's surprising how quickly we can forget the basics of safe winter driving after just a few days of dry roads, taking a corner too fast

or sliding through a stop sign on an unexpected slippery spot. Always stay vigilant.

Remember speed limits are set for ideal driving conditions. Even when it's a sunny day, ideal conditions are rare in winter.

Finally, no matter what the season, always wear your seat belt.



UPCOMING events

Operation Rescue Room Contest Deadline

Sun, Feb 15 | 4:30 pm (see page 16)

BILL HOBBS HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD NOMINATION DEADLINE

Fri, Feb 20 | 4:30 pm

The Golden Valley Human Rights Commission is accepting nominations for the Bill Hobbs Human Rights Award, which recognizes community members who work to build an environment that promotes fair and equal treatment for everyone. For more information and to submit a nomination form, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/boards/humanrights/hobbs-award.php.

West Metro Home Remodeling Fair

Sun, Feb 22 | 10:30 am–3:30 pm (see page 16)

Neighborhood Watch Block Captain's Meeting

Tue, Feb 24 | 7 pm

Police Department Training Room

Features resources and information for Block Captains to share with their Neighborhood Watch groups.

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Wed, March 11 | 1–5 pm

City Hall Parking Lot

Make your appointment online at www.mbc.org/ (enter sponsor code 4078), or contact Ann at 651-332-7165 or aevans@mbc.org. Check-in is in the Police Department lobby.

CARING YOUTH RECOGNITION

Thur, March 19 | 7 pm

Minnetonka Community Center

Sponsored by the Cities of Golden Valley, Hopkins, and Minnetonka, and the Hopkins and Minnetonka School Districts, this annual event celebrates the contributions of young people who positively affect our communities and who have given outstanding service. For more information, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/caringyouth/index.php.

Run The Valley

Sat, April 11 | 7:45 am (see page 3)

Neighborhood Watch Community Meeting

Mon, April 20 | 7 pm

Police Department Training Room

Open to all Neighborhood Watch participants and anyone interested in joining. Topics cover current crime trends and ways to keep your neighborhood safe.

HRC CONVERSATIONS

Thur, May 14 | 6:30–8 pm

Perpich Center For Arts Education

The Blank Slate Theatre presents "bottom," a play based on the stories of real sex trafficking survivors.

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

STATE OF THE CITY COMMUNITY UPDATE

Tues, March 17 | 6:30 pm

Fri, March 20 | 7:30 am

City Hall Council Chambers
7800 Golden Valley Rd

The annual State of the City reports the City's accomplishments of the past year and previews goals for the coming year. All members of the community are invited to

attend. Replays can be viewed on GV 16, the City's government access cable channel, and on the City website.



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- Square Foot Gardening
- Tips To Successful Kitchen Remodeling
- Presto-Change-O Bathrooms
- Kitchen Remodeling 2015: Small Innovations To Total Renovations
- Organic Lawn Care
- Decks And Porches

HOME REMODELING FAIR SET FOR FEB 22



Whether you’re a do-it-yourselfer or you’re looking for a contractor, the West Metro Home Remodeling Fair has something for everyone. It’s set for Feb 22, 10:30 am–3:30 pm at Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Hwy 7, Hopkins.

The Fair, a multi-city effort to boost housing conditions in the western suburbs, will feature seminars and demonstrations (see sidebar) and more than 70 exhibitors, including architects, landscapers, designers, electricians, roofers, lenders, city inspectors, and more. The Idea Center features “Ask the Pro,” a chance at no-obligation advice from architects and interior designers (bring your photos, sketches, and questions). Operation Rescue Room (see below), food concessions, and children’s activities will be available in the cafeteria.

Sponsors are the Cities of Golden Valley, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and St Louis Park, and Hopkins, Minnetonka, and St Louis Park Community Education. Co-sponsors are Bluestem Construction; Building Arts Sustainable Architecture & Construction LLC; DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen; Great Lakes Windows & Siding Co; Heinen Garage Construction; J.W. Williams Construction, Inc; Neighborhood Building & Remodeling Co; Otogawa-Anschel Design-Build; SicoraDesign/Build; and Terra Forma Design.

For more information, go to www.homeremodelingfair.com or contact the City of Golden Valley at 763-593-8099.

OPERATION: RESCUE ROOM

Do you have the baddest bathroom in the west metro? The cruddiest kitchen in the county?

The 2015 West Metro Home Remodeling Fair is looking for ugly rooms that need to be rescued.

The fourth annual Operation Rescue Room contest will give \$1,000 to the homeowner whose room is voted most in need of help by visitors to the Home Remodeling Fair on Feb 22, 2015. Last year, Jill Wanous of Minnetonka won the contest and used the money to fix up her bathroom.

Get rules and entry forms at www.homeremodelingfair.com/rescue. Deadline to enter is Feb 15, 2015.



www.homeremodelingfair.com/rescue



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.

