



# cityNEWS



## "VIBRANT PETALS" WINS PHOTO CONTEST

Three teenagers took top honors in this year's *Views Of The Valley* photo contest.

**SEE PAGES 8-9**

Photo by Anna Wuollet  
*Views of the Valley 2015*

## EQUIPMENT INNOVATIONS

Street maintenance staff develop new tools to improve efficiency and safety.

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## City Council Candidates Must File By Aug 11

Golden Valley residents interested in becoming City policy makers can file to run for Mayor or City Council in this year's Nov 3 municipal election. The following eligibility guidelines and filing information will help get you started.

### Golden Valley City Offices On The Ballot:

- Mayor (four-year term)
- Two Council Members – At Large (represent entire city, four-year term)

All offices are non-partisan (don't represent political parties). Candidates who are elected take office in January 2016.

### Requirements For Eligibility To Hold Office:

- Must be at least 21 years old upon assuming office
- Must have established residency in Golden Valley at least 30 days before election day
- Must not have filed for any other office in the current election
- Must pay a \$5 filing fee or present a petition with the signatures of eligible voters in lieu of the filing fee (Minnesota Statute 204B.07-204B.11)

- Must file a campaign financial report with the Golden Valley elections office within 14 days after receiving contributions or making disbursements of more than \$750 in a calendar year (Minnesota Statute 211A.02, Subd 6 now requires the City to make all campaign finance reports available on the City's website)
- Must provide information requested by the City that will be made available to the public

**Filing Dates:** July 28 through Aug 11, 8 am to 4:30 pm. Offices are open until 5 pm Aug 11. Candidates who will be absent from Minnesota during the filing period may make filing arrangements with the city clerk.

**Withdrawal Deadline:** Aug 13 at 5 pm

**Filing Location:** City of Golden Valley General Services Department (second floor of City Hall), 7800 Golden Valley Rd

**For More Information:** Information packets (City elections and requirements to run for City office) are available at City Hall and on the City website at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/elections](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/elections).



## A Guide To Golden Valley Government

Whether you're voting or running in the upcoming City elections, it helps to be aware of Golden Valley's approach to local government.

Golden Valley is a Statutory "Plan B" city with a part-time Mayor and City Council and a full-time City Manager who serves as the chief executive officer. The City Council and Mayor are elected "at large" to represent the entire community and are empowered by law to legislate city-wide policy.

The City Council appoints the City Manager who, as the executive officer, is responsible to the Council for day-to-day adminis-

tration of City matters and implementation of Council policies and directives. The City Manager appoints the City Attorney, who advises and represents the City and Council in all legal affairs. The City Manager also appoints the City's department heads and members of the management team. The Plan B form of government is often referred to as the "council-manager" plan. There are 16 Plan B cities in Minnesota.

All City meetings are held at City Hall unless otherwise noted. Public participation is welcome; agendas are available for review before the meetings at City Hall and [www.goldenvalleymn.gov](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov), where you can also subscribe to email updates for City meeting agendas and other news through GV DirectConnect. For more information, call the City Manager's Department at 763-593-8006. 

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

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# City Manager Search Process

## City Council To Make Decision By Aug 5

After two rounds of interviews with candidates in July and a community open house where the public could meet the finalists, the City Council is expected to choose a new city manager in August 2015. Current City Manager Tom Burt is retiring this fall.

The City embarked upon its search for a new city manager in May and retained Springsted Inc to lead the search effort, which garnered 46 applications. The City Council outlined steps for the interview process in late June, and at a special meeting June 29, the City Council narrowed the field to seven semi-finalists.

A City Council subcommittee interviewed the semi-finalists July 13 and forwarded the top four finalists for interviews with the full City Council and City management team on July 23.

According to state law, only names of finalists are considered public information.

Although the names of finalists were not available as CityNews went to press July 14, the City later publicized the names in news releases and news stories on the City website. The public was also invited to an open house at City Hall the evening of July 22 to meet the finalists.

After Springsted conducts management/leadership assessments and pre-employment checks on the successful candidate, the City Council will announce Golden Valley's new city manager. 

## GVHSF Funding Applications Due Aug 28

The Golden Valley Human Services Fund (GVHSF), which is composed of community volunteers, helps fund several nonprofit agencies that serve Golden Valley residents in need. For 2015 the GVHSF contributed \$44,000 to the following organizations.

- **Canvas Health/Crisis Connection** provides free 24-hour telephone counseling to people with personal and family problems and crises.
- **Northwest Suburban Dinner At Your Door** provides nourishing meals to homebound people unable to prepare a home-cooked meal.
- **PRISM** provides families in need with food, financial assistance, and other services in times of financial hardship. Funds are used to provide emergency and support services to Golden Valley residents.
- **Second Harvest Heartland** is a hunger relief organization that supplies food to local food shelves.
- **Senior Community Services HOME Program** offers services to help elders remain independent in their homes.
- **Senior Community Services Outreach** provides in-home counseling and case management to help frail elders remain independent.

- **Sojourner Project** provides emergency shelter for women and children as well as legal advocacy and support to domestic violence victims.
- **The Bridge For Youth** provides connections between the current realities of homelessness and a brighter, safer, more stable future.
- **TreeHouse** provides guidance to teens experiencing difficult times at home, in school, or in their families, as well as support and education for parents and families.
- **YMCA-New Hope** runs programs committed to nurturing the potential of kids by promoting health, wellness, and social responsibility.



Funding applications for 2016 are due Aug 28, 2015, at 4 pm. GVHSF funding guidelines and application are available on the City's website at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/boards/gvhsf/](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/boards/gvhsf/). Applications are also available at City Hall or Brookview Community Center. For more information or to make a tax deductible contribution, call 763-512-2340. 

# Got Junk?

## Hennepin County's A-Z Guide Offers Disposal Options

Want to shed some stuff but are unsure of disposal options? Hennepin County's "A-Z How To Get Rid Of It Guide" is an online search tool that provides information on options for discarding items or recycling (if applicable).

To get started, go to [www.hennepinatoz.org/azguide](http://www.hennepinatoz.org/azguide). Choose either the "household" or "business" option. Enter the item to be discarded and click "Search A-Z Guide," or click "Browse Index" for an alphabetical list of items ranging from awards to zip drives.

For each item, the website provides recycling or disposal options and links to other resources. For example, treated lumber must be taken to a landfill, while cassette tapes or CDs are both recyclable, but only when taken to a Hennepin County Drop Off facility.

The right side of each web page outlines potential reuse options for items, such as donations or free markets. Reuse is the most environmentally friendly and cost-effective way to discard an item.

To determine if an item can be put in your blue curbside recycling cart, visit Golden Valley's curbside recycling page at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recycling/curbside/](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recycling/curbside/).



## Recycling Reminders

### Mighty Tidy Day

**Saturday, Oct 3, 8 am–1 pm @ Brookview Park**

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

Fees apply. Details at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recycling/mightytidyday/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recycling/mightytidyday/index.php) or in the September/October *CityNews*.

### Fall Leaf Drop-Off

- Saturday, Oct 31, 8 am - 1 pm
  - Friday, Nov 6, 8 am - 3 pm (note new end time)
  - Saturday, Nov 7, 8 am - 1 pm
  - Saturday, Nov 14, 7 am - 1 pm
- @ Brookview Park**

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

## Golden Valley Recycles

### GRAY Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
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](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe).

# Brookview Golf Ponds

## Native Buffer Zones Will Protect Water Quality Downstream

In an ongoing effort to improve surface water quality, the City of Golden Valley began a multi-year project this summer to develop native vegetation buffer zones around ponds on the Brookview Golf Course, starting with two ponds along the hole-14 fairway.

In 2013, the City completed a study to assess the project's feasibility. Many of Brookview's water bodies have a connection to Bassett Creek, either by pipe or during flood events.

"Because we're trying to protect and improve the water quality of Bassett Creek as well as downstream waters, we're starting with the two ponds closest to the creek and working our way back from there," says Eric Eckman, public works specialist.

The new buffer zones will help soak up harmful nutrients before they reach the waterways, filter sediment, improve pond aesthetics, and promote native wildlife. They should also prevent geese from congregating around the ponds. Goose droppings are the source of bacteria and other potentially harmful nutrients in the waterways.

The whole process takes about three to four years for a single pond. It starts with removal of invasive plant species and noxious weeds around the targeted ponds, Eckman says. Steep banks are smoothed out to prevent erosion. Crews then seed a 5- to 20-foot-wide pond border with native vegetation that benefits both water quality and natural wildlife. These buffer zones are tended over the next several years to ensure proper growth and protection.

The golf course pond buffers will look similar to the native vegetation planted around the ponds in adjacent Brookview Park, except the golf course plantings will be lower-lying to ease course playability.

One downside is that until the new plants start growing and thriving a year or two from now, the area around the ponds will look like a brown ring, Eckman says.

"We've put up signs that say, 'Prairie in Progress' so people know that this is a process," he adds.

The City will begin work on other Brookview Golf Course ponds in 2017 and 2019 and will continue installing buffer zones on ponds throughout the City where needed. Funding for this project is provided in the City's 2015-2019 Capital Improvement Program.

For more information about Golden Valley's water quality improvement programs, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/surfacewater/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/surfacewater/index.php).



*Brookview hole #14 pond after herbicide treatment (year 1)*



*Example of year 2 annual growth*



*Prescribed burn (year 3)*



*Example of a mature pond with low-lying plantings (year 3 and beyond)*

# Recreation Highlights

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

## Youth

**Magic & Fun Show With Annette** (ages 3+ w/adult)—Magic tricks, silly songs, and zany puppets! Thur, Aug 5, 1:30–2:30 pm, Brookview.

**Junior Fall Soccer** (grades K–1)—Sat, Sept 12–Oct 17, noon or 1 pm. \$37/residents, \$40/non-residents, plus \$14 for shirt. Register by July 31.

**Youth Co-Rec Fall Soccer** (grades 2–5)—Sat, Sept 12–Oct 17, game times TBA. \$37/residents, \$40/non-residents, plus \$14 for shirt. Register by July 31.

## Seniors

**Having Fun with Brain Fitness**—Tue, Sept 15–Oct 6, 10–11:30 am. Learn and practice techniques to keep your brain sharp. \$40/residents, \$43/non-residents. Last day to register/cancel: Sept 8.

**Coffee Talk**—9:45–11 am, Brookview. Aug 26: “Tablets & Smartphones: What to Buy and How to Use Them.” Sept 23: “Roots of American Music—Blues, Ballads and Rags.” Register two days in advance at 763-512-2339. \$2 at door.

**Money Matters**—10–11:15 am, Brookview. Aug 20: “The Corporate Tax Structure.” Sept 17: “Should It Stay or Should It Go?”

**Lawn Bowling League**—Wed, Sept 9–Oct 14, 10–11 am. \$5 league fee + \$3/week for six weeks of play. Register/cancel by Sept 3.

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



## Brookview Ramps Up With Expanded Activities

Brookview Golf Course has made a push in the last few years to expand its programming beyond golf, and the results have been through-the-roof, says Ben Disch, golf operations manager.

“This is the busiest the course has been in years, and it feels good,” Disch says.

**Lawn Bowling Leagues And Tournaments**—The lawn bowling greens, which opened late last summer, continue to see heavy use.

“The traffic through here has been extensive,” Disch says. “So many people come even just to watch and socialize and enjoy an ice-cold beverage.”

The lawn bowling program will take another step forward this year with the first annual **Brookview Pub Bowl** Sept 4–6. Anyone 16 or older can sign up and build a team of four. Each team is guaranteed at least four games. Register by Aug 15 at [www.brookviewgolf.com/lawn-bowling/tournament.html](http://www.brookviewgolf.com/lawn-bowling/tournament.html).

**Bean Bag Leagues**—Just north of the lawn bowling rinks, Brookview’s new bean bag greens saw league action this summer, and a fall league will start Aug 13.

“We had 14 two-player teams this summer, and there’s quite a demand for fall,” Disch says. For more information, go to [www.brookviewgolf.com/bean-bags/index.html](http://www.brookviewgolf.com/bean-bags/index.html).

**Driving Range**—To satisfy the No. 1 request of golfers at Brookview, the Driving Range now has no club restrictions.

“Brookview is always striving to improve the golf experience for our customers,” Disch says. “The ability to use drivers on our range has been one of the top requests for many years. We’re happy to be able to accommodate that.”

**FlingGolf**—FlingGolf offers a new way to enjoy the game. Instead of using a club to hit a ball, golfers use a fling club to hurl the ball, sort of like golfing meets lacrosse. Brookview offers FlingGolf on the Par 3 course. Book your tee times the usual way.

**Golf Bikes**—Brookview is the first golf course in Minnesota to offer golf bikes, which are fat tire bikes that serve the same purpose as golf carts. The bikes have a place to hold golf clubs and a small cooler above the back tire for beverages.

**Winter Fun**—This winter will be Brookview Golf’s second season as a year-round recreation destination. Stop by to ski, skijour, snowshoe, or ride fat-tire bikes on trails through the golf course. Or just relax and enjoy Brookview’s fire pit and winter food and drink menu.

For more information about year-round activities at Brookview, visit [www.brookviewgolf.com/index.html](http://www.brookviewgolf.com/index.html).

# Sochacki Cooperative Park Now Open

Through a cooperative effort, the Cities of Golden Valley and Robbinsdale, with the Three Rivers Park District, created a 62-acre park that spans the cities' borders.

The partnership connects three smaller existing parks into one larger park that's more consistently and thoroughly managed and maintained, says Rick Birno, Golden Valley's parks and recreation director.

The new park combines resources to better meet the needs of the community, he adds, including paved trails that will be regularly maintained and future water quality improvements to water areas.

The project unifies Golden Valley's Mary Hills and Rice Lake Nature Areas with Robbinsdale's Sochacki Park. Sochacki Park will now be the name of the entire area. The grand opening of the park, in its new form, was June 25.

Sochacki, located at 3500 June Ave N, Robbinsdale, is being developed as a passive recreation park, featuring walking trails and low-impact recreational opportunities, like guided nature hikes, but not sports facilities such as soccer fields or ball diamonds. It will also be used as a storm water management area.

Creating parks across city boundaries is part of an ongoing Three Rivers Park District initiative to develop smaller regional parks, called pocket parks, through partnerships that serve multiple inner-ring suburbs.

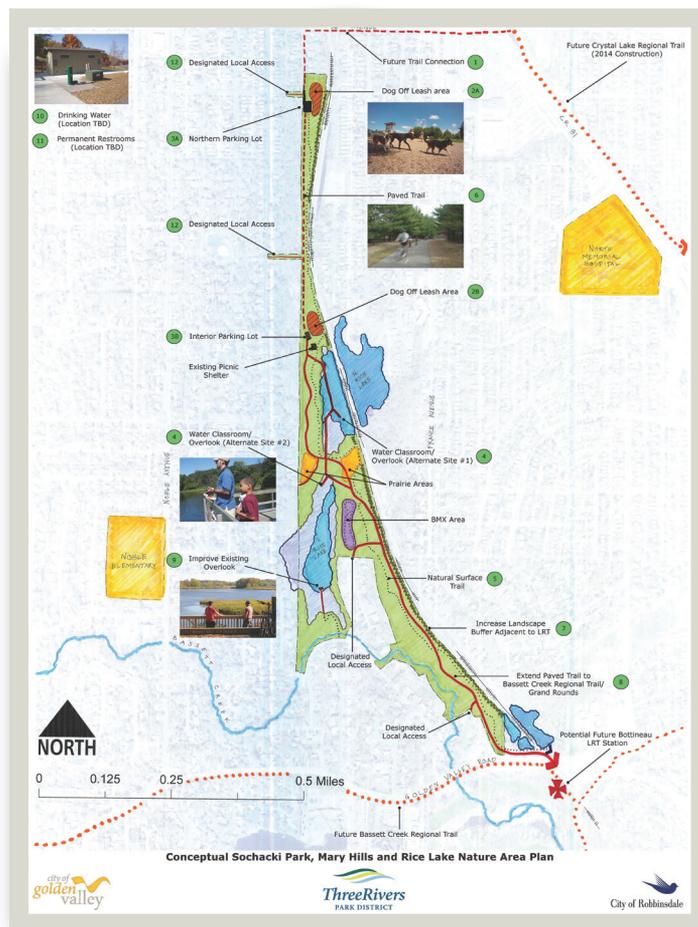
"When Three Rivers Park District was formed, the mission was to look for opportunities within inner-ring suburbs to enhance trails, define nature areas and pocket parks, and partner with local governments to bring the Three Rivers Park experience out to the far reaches of the county," says Dan Freeman, Three Rivers Park District commissioner.

Sochacki is the first "pocket park" of its kind, but the Park District plans to produce more like it using this project as a template, Freeman says.

"I want to commend Robbinsdale and Golden Valley for being willing to step forward and say, 'yes, this makes sense, let's put something together,'" Freeman says. "This is the way government is supposed to work."

Sochacki Park will be jointly operated by a governing board made up of members of each partnering body.

The partnership leaves open further opportunities for new park uses, such as an off-leash dog park, nature-based play areas, nature education programs, and an expansion of wildlife



habitat through volunteer installations of wood duck houses, bat boxes, and pollinator gardens.

With Noble Elementary a few blocks away, Birno says, Park District staff has started to work with teachers to develop an on-going nature education program that partners the school with the park complex for experiential learning opportunities.

"The area is a hidden jewel many residents don't know about," Birno says. "It's an under-used area, and by combining our resources, we can develop a park that attracts more community use."

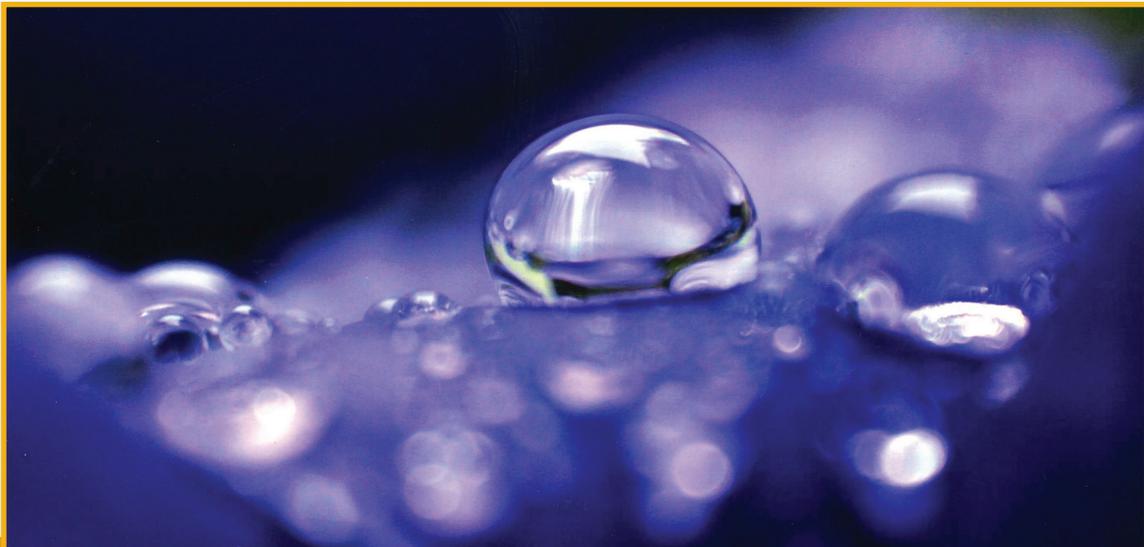
For further information, contact Birno at 763-512-2342 or [rbirno@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:rbirno@goldenvalleymn.gov).

## About Three Rivers Park District

Three Rivers Park District is a natural resources-based park system that manages park reserves, regional parks, regional trails, and special-use facilities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. It owns and operates more than 27,000 acres and serves more than 10 million visitors a year.

# Teens Take Top Honors In 23rd Annual Photo Contest

Teen-aged photographers took the top three spots in this year's *Views Of The Valley* contest. Four judges ranked 15-year-old Anna Wuollet's "Vibrant Petals" as the overall winner out of 67 entries and the first place winner in the Natural category. Gretchen Mathiason (16) won first place in the Lifestyle category with "Strumming," and Grace O'Neil (17) won first place in the Enhanced category with "Heartlines." "Awesome Ice-Covered Leaves" by Janice Laulainen took the People's Choice award. Judges were Dennis Zerwas Jr, a professional photographer ([dzipics.com](http://dzipics.com)); Nicole Pribbenow, City of St Louis Park communications coordinator; Kaylin Eidsness, City of Edina senior communications coordinator; and Kara Trygestad, City of Brooklyn Park graphic designer and web coordinator. 



**FIRST PLACE NATURAL GOLDEN VALLEY & OVERALL GRAND PRIZE WINNER**

*Vibrant Petals* : Anna Wuollet

**NATURAL GOLDEN VALLEY  
HONORABLE MENTION**



*Symbiosis* : Sonia Mohammadzadah

**NATURAL GOLDEN VALLEY HONORABLE  
MENTION AND PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD**



*Awesome Ice-Covered Leaves* : Janice Laulainen



Next year's *Views of the Valley* Photo Contest deadline is June 10, 2016.

**GOLDEN VALLEY LIFESTYLE  
HONORABLE MENTIONS**



**FIRST PLACE GOLDEN VALLEY LIFESTYLE**

*Strumming* : Gretchen Mathiason



*Turn...Turn...Turn!* :  
Stan Waldhauser



*A Sweet Treat* :  
Anna Wuollet

**ENHANCED GOLDEN VALLEY  
HONORABLE MENTIONS**



*Tree Face* :  
Kalin Kauppila



*It's A Bird, It's A Plane* :  
Kalin Kauppila



**FIRST PLACE ENHANCED GOLDEN VALLEY**

*Heartlines* : Grace O'Neil



# Don't Hesitate To Call 911

## Your Actions May Help Hinder Or Solve A Crime

This June, five burglaries occurred in one Golden Valley neighborhood in a single day. By the time police arrived, the burglar was long gone. But he could have been caught in the act had witnesses called 911 right away, says Joanne Paul, crime analyst.

Two people, independently of each other, reported having seen the burglary happen, Paul says. One of them saw a man walking out of a home carrying a TV but didn't call 911 out of fear of being nosy.

Only after police arrived on the scene to investigate reports of stolen items did the residents reveal what they had witnessed.

### When In Doubt, Call

"When it comes to calling 911, people over-think it and often talk themselves out of making the call," Paul says.

It happens all too often.

"We find out countless times when canvassing neighborhoods after a crime that people saw something that can help with the case, but they didn't call it in," says Police Chief Stacy Carlson. "People are worried about bothering us. You're not bothering us."

Reporting evidence, suspicious behavior, and witness accounts in real time helps officers do their job.

If you see something that doesn't feel right, call 911, Paul says. "No one has to be on fire or gushing blood. We'd rather show up and find out there was nothing wrong than hear about something after the fact."

If you're home during the day and you spot a suspicious vehicle or a person you don't recognize lingering around a neighbor's home, call 911. If a crime already occurred in your area, and after the fact you spot something—a shoe, a weapon, anything—that could be evidence in the case or help police find a suspect, call 911.

Even instances you normally might not think of as emergencies, like loud parties next door or vandalizing in progress, are also 911 situations.

If you're debating whether or not to call 911, Carlson says, make the call. Don't hesitate. "If you call and it's not a 911-appropriate issue, they will tell you." ✓



## 2015 Citizen's Police Academy

**Tues, Sept 8–Oct 27, 6–9 pm**  
**Golden Valley Police Department**

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

Tuition is free! Seven-week course covers:

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

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

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



# Protecting Golden Valley

## Twelve Firefighters Move Forward In Intensive Training Process

Twelve residents of Golden Valley and neighboring communities are on their way to becoming Golden Valley firefighters, recently passing major milestones in an intensive training process.

Seven probationary firefighters (see photo above) graduated in June from the West Suburban Fire Academy after completing 170 hours of intensive training that is the first step on the path to becoming state-certified firefighters.

They are joined by five apprentice firefighters who are nearing completion of their second year of training.

“I am proud to have come this far and look forward to becoming a more valuable asset to the department as my training continues,” says Jonathan Kennelly, one of the first-year graduates.

The probationary group faces 30 more hours of training this summer as well as a 40-hour emergency medical responder class in the fall. This will round out the first year in a two-year training program that started in January 2015.

Apprentice firefighters have met a number of benchmarks set in their first year, which can include up to 250 hours of training. They achieve the official rank of firefighter in their third year.

“Our firefighters dedicate a significant amount of time and energy every week for years on end to their community,” says Stephen Baker, fire education specialist/training coordinator. “On top of having families and full-time jobs, they get up at 3 am to respond to fire calls. They sometimes have to leave family holiday dinners. At times they are asked to put firefighting first.”

Fire Chief John Crelly agrees.

“As we look for a new balance in today’s world, I want to make sure the celebration of bringing on new firefighters continues,” says Crelly. “I feel it is very important news to share with the citizens of Golden Valley so they can see the quality people we are hiring from the community to serve their community.”

For more information about becoming a paid, on-call firefighter in Golden Valley, go to [www.goldenvalleyfire.com](http://www.goldenvalleyfire.com).

### Probationary Firefighters

- Tom Bloxsom is a recent transplant from Connecticut/New York and a Golden Valley resident.
- Nicholas Jester is a former financial advisor who completed his EMT. He’s lived in North Minneapolis since 2004.
- Jerry Jovanovich is a software support engineer who has lived in Golden Valley since 2007.
- Jonathan Kennelly is a former small business owner who recently earned a degree in bioproducts engineering. He has lived in Golden Valley for five years.
- Michael Palmer is a construction project manager who lives in St Louis Park.
- Dana Perkins is a principal engineer for a medical device company and a Golden Valley resident.
- Kim Suchy works at Honeywell and has lived in Golden Valley for a year.

### Apprentice Firefighters

- Nicholas Anderson has worked at the MSP airport, as a commercial fisherman in Alaska, and at a fishing resort in northern Minnesota. He lives in Crystal.
- Chris Sorheim spent several years as a deputy sheriff before returning to a job as a school bus driver. He has lived in Golden Valley all his life, and his grandfather was a founding member of the Golden Valley Fire Department.
- Shawn Thorud has been a realtor for 10 years, grew up in Golden Valley, and purchased his family home 17 years ago.
- Eric Viegas works in IT at a company in Plymouth and has lived in St Louis Park for four years.
- John Black is the global R&D director for a commercial cleaning equipment manufacturing company. He has lived in Golden Valley since 2009.

# Equipment Innovations Improve Street Maintenance Efficiency

When Golden Valley street maintenance workers saw some opportunities to increase their work efficiency this past year, they invented and built their own equipment to help them do so. The results were such a success, the Minnesota Local Road Research Board gave the City a \$3,500 innovation grant to spread the word and inform other cities about these newly designed tools.

It all started when the street maintenance crew decided to take over some of the concrete work previously done by private contractors to save the City some money, says Marshall Beugen of the Street Maintenance Department.

The problem was, the City trucks weren't designed for holding the metal concrete molding forms or all the tools and extra equipment that goes with concrete construction work. They found themselves making extra trips to the construction sites to deliver all the necessary equipment, slowing productivity and increasing safety concerns.

"We, as a group, as maintenance workers, are always trying to solve problems and come up with more efficient ways of doing things," says Beugen. "We tried to figure out the best way to use what we already had, and then we innovated."

So he and the rest of the maintenance crew, specifically Kevin Jaax, Todd Fadden, Derek Goddard, and Bill Bowman, developed their own loading equipment.

First they made a list of all the tools and materials routinely needed for the projects. Next, the City purchased a generic box frame that could hook on the back of a hook-loader truck (a relatively small truck designed to have different types of containers and frames attached to the back). The crew then drew up plans, gathered the proper material, and welded a custom-made container, complete with a 55-gallon drum for concrete curing compound and a pump that allowed easy access and uniform application, designed specifically for concrete work.

Since then, equipment mobilization time has gone from an hour-and-a-half to just a few minutes, Beugen says. It also increased safety by eliminating employees climbing in and out of the back of the truck looking for tools, which are now all reachable from the ground.

Happy with their success, the crew decided to tackle two more needs. They went on to assemble a system of equipment holsters, attached to a winter street sander, that carries flashers, traffic cones, snow shovels, and a fuel tank for replenishing sidewalk clearing machines.

"We call it our urban a-salt vehicle," Beugen says.

Then crews innovated a flatbed hook system that could haul all the accessory attachments for the City's Bobcat skid loader. While the skid itself can operate multiple attachments, it is only able to carry one attachment at a time. The new flatbed solved that problem and once again eliminated the need to make several back-and-forth trips.

These custom-made pieces of equipment were not previously acquirable from any store or factory. They were all designed to fit on the City's hook-loader trucks, which Golden Valley started using about five years ago.

"Our hook-loader trucks are so universal, they've allowed us to become more efficient," Beugen says, adding that the crew already has plans for several more innovations. "We definitely have new designs in the works." 🏡



*Golden Valley hook-loader truck with staff-designed hook box for concrete forms*



*Hook-loader truck with hook box detached*



*Backside of Golden Valley hook box for concrete forms*



# City Amends Zoning Ordinances That Regulate Side Setbacks

In June 2015, the City Council approved changes to the zoning code that regulate the distance from a single family home to its side property lines. These changes clarified the code by replacing mathematical formulas with visual descriptions.

The previous version of the City’s zoning code was adopted in 2008 as part of a major rewrite of regulations for development or redevelopment of lots with single family homes.

The setback language in that code proved to be complicated and open to some interpretation. As a result, the City received multiple questions from homeowners, builders, and neighbors regarding the regulations. This prompted the City Council to ask staff for a revision that was cleaner and simpler while still addressing the concerns of neighbors.

Staff replaced the language that relied on mathematical formulas with a description of a three-dimensional building envelope (see Image 1). If a proposed project fits within this envelope, it can be built.

The tent-shaped envelope requires portions of a home taller than 15 feet to be stepped-back from the side property line (see Image 2). For either new construction or for an addition to an existing home, a one-story structure 15 feet in height, such as a garage, could be built up to the side setback line. Taller portions of the home must be located further from the setback line.

The dimensions of these side setbacks are directly related to the height of the home; as the height of the structure increases, so does the size of the setback. The addition of these images to the zoning code should help builders, homeowners, and neighbors visualize what could be constructed on a lot.

To see the complete zoning code, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/code/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/code/index.php) and click on “Chapter 11.”

Image 1. Three-Dimensional Building Envelope

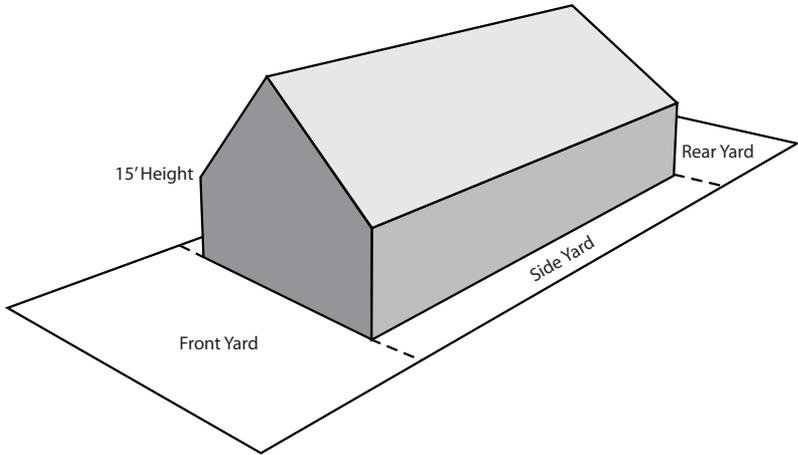
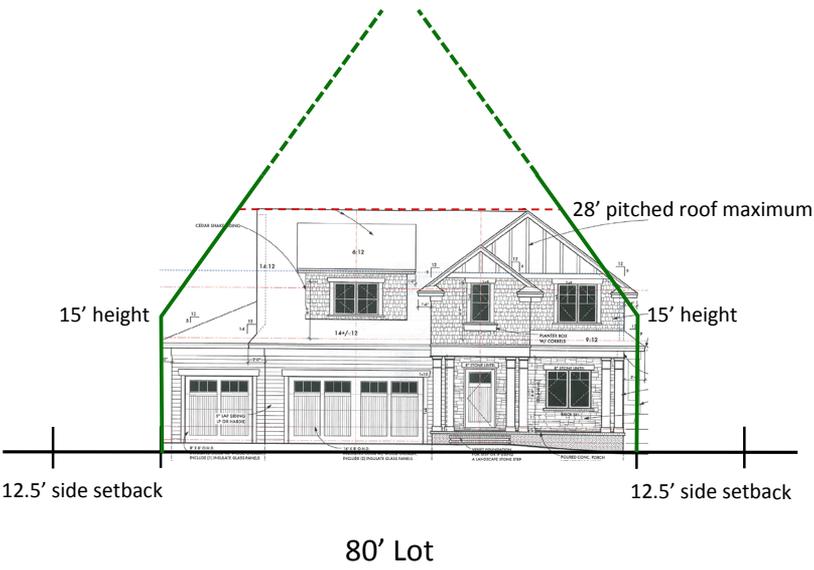


Image 2. Tent-Shaped Building Envelope



# Driving In Construction Zones

## Pay Attention To Signs, Adhere To Laws, And Be Patient

This summer it may feel as if no matter what direction you drive, no matter what route you take, you will hit a construction zone. Traffic comes to a standstill. Lines of cars are backed up for blocks. And the sun is blazing.

Under these conditions, it's easy for people to lose their cool, says Police Officer Dave Staaf.

"They get frustrated. They get annoyed, and they let those emotions lead to bad decisions," Staaf says.

Those bad decisions only make matters worse, causing further congestion and creating safety hazards for everyone involved.

Staaf says Golden Valley police issue several tickets per day to drivers in construction zones who commit three main infractions: driving too fast, ignoring signs, and blocking intersections (see below). A moving violation in a construction zone leads to an automatic \$300 fine.

The secret to making it through a construction-ridden commute without getting a ticket and without putting anyone in danger, Staaf says, is patience.

"If you can't find an alternative route, we ask that you be patient. We're all in this together." 

## Three Main Construction Zone Violations And How To Avoid Them



### Blocking An Intersection

When traffic slows and a line of cars are backed up to an intersection, drivers often move their cars into the intersection at a green light, even if the cars ahead of them are at a standstill. These cars block the intersection until the line ahead moves forward, which may not be for several minutes. If the light changes, the intersection is blocked for people driving across, leading to congestion in all directions.

This only compounds everyone's frustration, Staaf says, so drivers will try to get around the obstructing cars by weaving through the traffic in a hazardous way, whether by driving into the oncoming lane or driving through a crosswalk and putting pedestrians at risk. It's important to not move into that intersection until you know you can make it all the way through, Staaf says. It must be absolutely clear that your car has enough room on the other side, free of the crosswalk. If there isn't enough space, by law you must wait before entering the intersection, even if that means sitting through another light cycle.



### Ignoring Signs

"Road Closed" or "Road Closed To Thru Traffic" signs are there for a reason. Find another route, even if you only need to drive on the street for half a block. When people ignore closure signs to avoid inconvenience, Staaf says, it creates a hazardous work environment. Construction workers won't be expecting traffic from that direction and may not be looking out for your car. Also, there's a number of hidden dangers you could drive into, even if the way looks clear to you. The signs are there for your safety as well as the safety of others.



### Driving Too Fast

The main causes of work-zone crashes, according to MnDOT, are drivers speeding and not paying attention. It's an easy fix: obey speed limits and stay off your cell phone—there are lives at stake. Fatalities in road construction and maintenance work zones average nearly 700 per year, according to the Centers for Disease Control. So please slow down and stay alert.

# UPCOMING events

PHOTO BY MARGE THURSTON, VIEWS OF THE VALLEY 2015

## Minnesota Night To Unite

Tues, Aug 4

## Bike To The Ballpark

Thur, Aug 13 | 10:45 am–4:30 pm

Bike with Park and Rec staff to Target Field and watch the Twins face the Texas Rangers. Depart from Lions Park. Seats are in section 312. Must be able to bike 7–8 miles one way using streets and sidewalks. Parents and other adults welcome. \$24/resident, \$26/non-resident.

## MOVIES IN THE PARK

1: Thur, Aug 13 | 8:30 pm

Brookview Park

“The Mighty Ducks”

(sponsored by Twin City Tennis Camps)

2: Thur, Aug 20 | 8:15 pm

Scheid Park

“Frozen Sing-Along”

(sponsored by Culver’s)

## Brookview Pub Bowl Lawn Bowling Tournament

Fri, Sept 4 –Sun, Sept 6

(see page 6)

## Citizen’s Police Academy

Tues, Sept 8–Oct 27 | 6–9 pm

(see page 10)

## HRC National Day Of Service And Remembrance

Thur, Sept 10 | 6–8 pm

Second Harvest Heartland WEST  
6325 Sandburg Rd, Suite 1700

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

## Mighty Tidy Day

Sat, Oct 3 | 8 am–1 pm

(see page 4)

## HRC CONVERSATIONS: HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS

Thur, Oct 22 | 6:30–8 pm

City Hall Council Chambers

Panel discussion to raise awareness about the issue of human trafficking. Hosted by Golden Valley Human Rights Commission, HRC Conversations brings the community together for dialogue on current human rights issues.

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ANNUAL MEETING

Sat, Oct 10 | 1 pm

GVPD Training Room,  
7800 Golden Valley Rd

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

## Annual Leaf Drop-Off

Three Oct & Nov weekends

(see page 4)

## Local General Election

Tue, Nov 4 (see pages 2 & 16)

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

## COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Wed, Aug 19 | 1–5 pm

7800 Golden Valley Rd (check in at Public Safety Building)

Memorial Blood Centers’ Battle of the Badges challenges Fire and Police Departments from across the metropolitan area in a friendly competition to save and sustain lives through blood donation. Schedule your donation at [www.mbc.org/searchdrives](http://www.mbc.org/searchdrives) and enter sponsor code 4078. Or contact Ann at 651-332-7165 or [aevans@mbc.org](mailto:aevans@mbc.org).

On the day of your donation, complete your health history questionnaire online at [www.mbc.org/idonate](http://www.mbc.org/idonate).





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# ELECTION DAY

\*\*\*\*\*

## VOTE IN YOUR PRECINCT

- **PRECINCT 1A:**  
NE Fire Station  
3700 Golden Valley Rd
- **PRECINCT 2A:**  
Valley Presbyterian Church  
3100 North Lilac Dr
- **PRECINCT 3C:**  
Meadowbrook School  
5430 Glenwood Ave
- **PRECINCT 4:**  
LOGIS  
5750 Duluth St
- **PRECINCT 5C:**  
SE Fire Station  
400 Turners Crossroad S
- **PRECINCT 6:**  
Golden Valley City Hall  
7800 Golden Valley Rd
- **PRECINCT 7B:**  
Sandburg School  
2400 Sandburg Lane
- **PRECINCT 8B:**  
Brookview Community Center  
200 Brookview Parkway

*For 2015, the local general election day is Nov 3. Polls are open 7 am–8 pm.*

# Register To Vote On Or Before Election Day

If you're not registered to vote, you should do so by Oct 13 to be on the roster for the Nov 3 general election. You may register by mail or in person by completing a Minnesota Voter Registration Application, available at most government offices and public libraries, including City Hall (7800 Golden Valley Rd) and the Hennepin County Government Center (300 South 6th St - Public Service Level, Minneapolis, MN 55487). You may also register online at [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org).

You can register to vote on election day at your precinct voting site by bringing one of the following documents to verify your current address:

- valid driver's license or permit or Minnesota identification card (or receipt for either)
- college student ID card (if student housing list was provided to election officials)
- notice of late registration mailed to you from the county auditor

- photo ID plus document with current name and address (bill account or start of service statement dated within 30 days of election—go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/elections/voting.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/elections/voting.php) for list of accepted documents; student fee statement; residential lease or rental agreement valid through election day)

You may also have a registered voter in your precinct vouch for your residence.

All voters must be at least 18 years old on the day of election, be a citizen of the United States, and have resided in Minnesota for 20 days immediately preceding election day. Other requirements apply; check the MN Voter Registration Application for details.

Questions? Call the city clerk at 763-593-8012. For a complete guide on voting in Golden Valley, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/elections](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/elections).

★★★  
**AM I REGISTERED TO VOTE?**  
Check your registration at [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org).



**The City of Golden Valley Is Now On Facebook**

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



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.

