



cityNEWS



NEW WAYS TO PLAY IN GOLDEN VALLEY

The City is debuting several new recreation programs this summer, with a little bit of something for everyone.

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FIXING THE BIG WATER PIPE

When you get your water from outside the community, you want to make sure the pipe that brings it here works well.

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JWC To Replace Main Water Line

Line Delivers Water To Golden Valley, New Hope, And Crystal

Twice in the last two years the large pipe that delivers water from Minneapolis to Golden Valley, New Hope, and Crystal burst open under the streets of Robbinsdale, flooding streets, homes, and businesses and jeopardizing the water supply for homes and businesses in three communities.

This summer, the Joint Water Commission (JWC) plans to replace that 50-plus-year-old concrete water main before more breaks can occur at ever increasing costs. The project will cause some traffic delays for motorists in Robbinsdale and Crystal. The JWC does not anticipate significant disruptions to water service. Work is scheduled to begin this spring and continue through August.

The total cost of the major water main breaks in June 2013 and September 2014 was approximately \$1 million. The engineer's estimated cost for the water main replacement project is about \$5.3 million.

A Little History

The Cities of Golden Valley, Crystal, and New Hope have been buying treated Mississippi River water from the City of Minneapolis as the JWC since the 1960s. The water is distributed to JWC reservoirs in Crystal and Golden Valley through two different pipes, including the 36-inch concrete water main beneath County Rd 9 in Robbinsdale.

In fall 2014, the JWC analyzed the structural integrity of the water main. The consultant's report indicated significant structural defects and potential risk for additional failures. The JWC city councils are reviewing project costs and drafting a resolution supporting improvements approved by the JWC.

Project Overview

The project involves replacing the deteriorated 36-inch concrete pipe primarily with 24 inch ductile iron pipe, which is far more resistant to breaking. A variety of installation methods will be used to reduce costs and limit disruptions to motorists, area businesses, and residents.

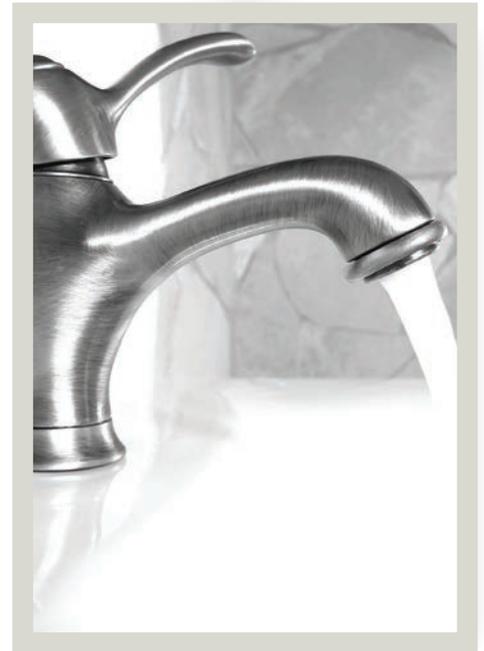
On most of the project, crews will use the loose-fit slip lining technique, which requires limited excavation.

Portions of the water main will be replaced through open trenches while the street is dug up as part of Hennepin County's reconstruction of County Rd 9. This part of the project, mostly east of County Rd 81, will result in

road closures and significant traffic delays and inconvenience for motorists, local businesses, and residents. Spot road closures will also likely occur in other portions of the project area. For more information, go to www.hennepin.us/residents/transportation/county-road-9-construction-robbinsdale.

During the project, JWC water customers may experience periods of decreased water pressure and possible implementation of a midday or perhaps full sprinkling ban (depending on the weather). The JWC expects to have its emergency water supply well system available to bring online sometime this summer. If the JWC needs to activate that system, the water will be treated but not softened.

Watch for project updates on the City website and Facebook, in *CityNews*, and on local media. Questions? Contact City Engineer Jeff Oliver at 763-593-8034. 🌊



Enter Your Views of the Valley

Photo Contest Deadline Is June 12

What do you think makes Golden Valley great? Take a picture of it and send it in to the 23rd annual Views of the Valley photo contest. Enter your best work, vote for your favorite photo in the People's Choice award category, or both.

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

Entry deadline is June 12, 2015, at 4:30 pm. Mail or drop off completed entries to Photo Contest, City of Golden Valley, 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427. Photo entries become the property of the City of Golden Valley and will not be returned. City employees and their families are not eligible to enter.

Contest Prizes

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

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

Photo entries will be displayed at City Hall and on the City website. From June 15–26, Golden Valley residents may vote for the People's Choice award at City Hall during business hours (8 am–4:30 pm, Monday–Friday) or online at www.goldenvalleymn.gov. Winners will be notified in early July. Questions? Call 763-593-8004. 



CONTEST RULES

- You must be a Golden Valley resident.
- Submit each photo in one of three categories:
 - Natural Golden Valley (landscapes, flora, fauna, etc)
 - Golden Valley Lifestyle (people, activities, cityscapes, buildings, etc)
 - Enhanced (photos significantly altered by editing software, etc—on the entry form, explain what alterations were made to each enhanced photo)
- Submit up to three color or black-and-white photos.
 - All photos must be trimmed to 5x7.
 - Do not submit slides, photocopies, or prints not on photo-quality paper.
 - Digital files must be accompanied by a print on photo-quality paper.
 - Do not mat or frame photos.
 - Include complete entry information for each photo (see form). Be sure to indicate the category.
- All entries submitted must be your own work.
- All decisions will be final, and judges reserve the right not to award in any category.
- The City of Golden Valley will not be responsible for lost entries.
- The contest organizers reserve the right to re-categorize or disqualify any entries.
- If there are identifiable people in the photo and it was taken in a non-public space, it is the responsibility of the photographer to obtain permission to use the photo.
- **Deadline is June 12, 2015, 4:30 pm.**

ENTRY FORM

Name _____
Address _____
Zip _____ Day Phone _____
Age (if under 18) _____
Category: Natural Golden Valley Golden Valley Lifestyle
 Enhanced*
Title of Photo _____

*Enhancement Explanation _____

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

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

Brush Pickup

Spring Brush Pick-Up Is April 27 To May 15

The first sign of warm weather is a great time to start getting ready for Golden Valley's annual residential Spring Brush Pick-Up. The pick-up, running from April 27 to May 15, gives you the opportunity to place tree limbs and brush at your curb for collection and disposal.

Pick Up Schedule

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

Section 1: Week of April 27

Area north of Hwy 55 and west of Douglas Dr

Section 2: Week of May 4

Area north of Hwy 55 and east of Douglas Dr

Section 3: Week of May 11

Area south of Hwy 55

Guidelines

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

- Tree limbs and brush must be 4 inches in diameter or less and approximately 6 feet long or less.
- Stack brush so the larger ends face the street (do NOT tie limbs together).

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

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

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



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
Fourth of July	Fri, July 3
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 (select Option 3 twice) 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.

Good Housekeeping For Water Quality

You don't have to join an environmental action group or spend lots of money to help improve local water quality. It's as easy as good housekeeping.

Storm water runoff from buildings, lawns, and parking lots collects pollutants on its way to ponds and streams. What you do and what you store on your property plays a big part in that, including routine activities such as mowing, fertilizing, washing vehicles and equipment, or changing oil in the lawn mower

"A property owner could be polluting the environment without even knowing it," says Eric Eckman, public works specialist.

Good Housekeeping Provisions

- Do not dispose of yard waste or landscape debris in or near areas of storm water runoff.
- Do not discharge lawn clippings onto impervious surfaces, or if you do, clean them up promptly.
- Store all machinery, equipment, and materials containing hazardous substances in areas not susceptible to runoff.
- Fuel and other chemical residue or other potentially harmful material, located in areas susceptible to runoff, should be removed and disposed of properly.
- Pool water should not be discharged into the City's storm water system without proper preparation. Before discharging pool water, suspend the chlorination system for seven days to allow chlorine to evaporate.
- Learn how to dispose of old products and household hazardous waste at Hennepin County's drop-off facilities at www.hennepin.us/dropoffs.

Proper Use of Chemicals

Follow the instructions listed on the product—it's the best way to keep safe. If the directions say one ounce of chemical per one gallon of water, don't use two ounces thinking you'll get done twice as fast. You'll only risk the health of those around you as well as the health of your lawn.

Use the right chemical for the specific weed. Research which herbicide works best for the type of plant you're dealing with. Use the wrong chemical and you'll end up using more than you have to, a practice that's hard on the environment and bad for your pocketbook.

Spot spray only the plants you want eradicated rather than spraying your entire yard. This significantly cuts the amount of chemical runoff while still keeping your lawn weed-free.

Do not spray on or near impervious surfaces. Treat your sidewalk and driveway as if they were a shoreline. What runs off of them ends up in the lakes. Spray chemicals on the intended target.

Rinse properly. Do not dump remaining chemicals on a single spot on your lawn. They'll only drain into the storm sewer. Instead, dilute the chemicals by filling the container with water and spraying it back out over a large area. Do this three times to ensure a proper rinse with no runoff. **DO NOT** rinse the container and dump it out on an impervious surface. Also, washing down paved areas in commercial and industrial properties is against the law unless necessary for health or safety purposes.

If you have questions about storm water management or wonder where your runoff goes, contact Eckman at 763-593-8084.



Do You Need A Storm Water Management Permit?

Golden Valley's storm water management ordinance regulates how properties manage runoff and potential sources of pollution, including on construction sites. The City's ordinance requires a storm water permit for certain construction activities, including:

- any activities that disturb soils or vegetation in excess of 4,000 square feet
- cutting, filling, disposal, hauling in, or storage of more than 30 cubic yards of soil
- any activity involving construction, installation, demolition, modification, or expansion of a building foundation wall
- construction or demolition of a retaining wall of sufficient height to require a building permit
- construction or demolition of a swimming pool
- any land-disturbing activities within City right-of-way that have a duration greater than 72 hours and are not covered by a right-of-way excavation, utility, or plumbing permit
- construction, reclamation, expansion, removal, or modification of a parking lot
- construction, expansion, or modification of a storm water management facility or storm water BMP
- any land-disturbing activities within the 100-year floodplain or calculated high water level of any water body, or immediately adjacent to any wetland or public water body, including shoreline restoration and creek bank stabilization

Questions? Contact Water Resources Technician Tom Hoffman at 763-593-8044.

Recreation Highlights

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

Youth

Drama Camp (ages 7–12)—Create characters, voices, and scripts through a variety of fun improv and acting games. March 30–31, 9 am–3 pm, Brookview, \$50.

Indoor Soccer (ages 3–4 or 5–7)—Thur, April 16–May 14, Davis, \$33.

Adult

Adult Co-Rec Sand Volleyball League—Tuesday evenings at Brookview Park, June 2–Aug 11, \$220 Res/\$240 Non-Res. Registration packet on the City website.

Seniors

Monday Open Art Studio—NEW! Bring your favorite medium and project to class. 9 am, Brookview, \$1/week.

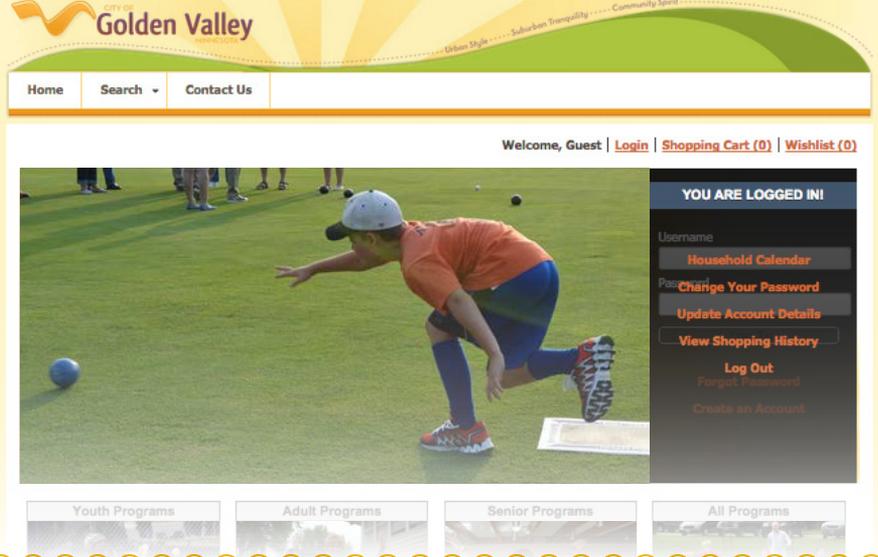
Money Matters—April 16: “Medical Assistance 101,” May 21: “Adjusting Your Portfolio To Profit In Today’s Markets.” 10 am, Brookview.

Blood Pressure Screening—April 22 & May 27, 11 am, Brookview.

Senior Par 3 Golf League Meeting—Thur, April 23, 10 am, Brookview.

Coffee Talk—April 22: “Conserving Migratory Songbirds,” May 27: “The Most Popular Chinese Historical Figures and Their Stories.” 9:45 am, Brookview, \$2 at door. Register at 763-512-2339.

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 Updates RecConnect Registration System

It's User-Friendly And Full Of New Features!

Patrons of Golden Valley’s many parks and recreation programs should have a much easier time signing up for activities and events, thanks to an overhaul of RecConnect, the City’s online registration system. New online management software will be in place in time for people to sign up for spring activities.

“The old system was very cumbersome for residents to use,” says Carrie Anderson, recreation supervisor. “The new system is so consumer friendly.”

For example, the new, improved RecConnect allows people to create their own user names and passwords at any time. The old program did not allow that, and people had to call the parks and recreation office to receive an access code. If they forgot their code, they could only receive a new one by calling the office during business hours.

“A lot of people were frustrated that they couldn’t remember their random eight-digit number,” Anderson says. “Then they had to wait until the office opened again before they could get a new one.”

Now people can access RecConnect 24/7, manage their accounts independently, and change their passwords whenever they want. Payments are still made online, although with an easier-to-use interface. For security reasons, the City no longer takes credit card information over the phone.

The new RecConnect also allows online facility reservations, which means booking a tennis court, gym, or picnic shelter, for example, can be done in a few clicks. No more calling the parks and recreation office to reserve facilities.

“I’m really excited about this system, and I think people will be pleased with how it works,” Anderson says.

The transition to the new RecConnect will be seamless, she adds. People should find it intuitive as they navigate the parks and recreation pages on goldenvalleymn.gov.

Watch future newsletters for updates on other exciting changes coming soon to RecConnect. Plans include adding an interactive calendar that will allow you to check the availability of any park, shelter, or recreational facility months in advance. 🐾

Summer Volunteer Opportunities

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

Playground Specialists

Help provide activities at Golden Valley's playground program, held at various parks for seven weeks from June 8–July 26, 2015. The Naturalist will present a nature program one afternoon a week and the Photography Specialist will present a photography activity two afternoons a week.

Fishing Club

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

Penny Carnival

Lead a game or activity for children who come to the Penny Carnival on Friday, July 24, 10 am – 1 pm.

Summer Concert Attendant

Meet and greet the performers, set up and take down chairs, deliver necessary materials to performers, evaluate performances, and clean up the site. Mondays, 5:30–8:30 pm, June 8–August 17.

Adopt-A-Park

Help Golden Valley keep its parks beautiful. Open to community groups, civic organizations, churches, businesses, and individuals willing to make a minimum two-year commitment.



Volunteers will keep an eye on their adopted parks, report any vandalism or unsafe conditions observed, and pick up litter at least twice a year. For more information, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/parks/adopt-a-park.php.

Photo Posse

Share your photography skills by taking pictures of City events, interactions, and sights. Your help makes it possible for us to more completely portray community life in City publications and productions. Photographers grant permission for the City to use submitted photos in a variety of ways (publications, websites, videos, presentations, marketing and educational materials, etc). You will receive a photo credit whenever we use one of your photos. Times and locations vary.

Sign Up Now!

There are several events and classes throughout the year that need volunteer help. Coaches, instructors, meeting leaders, or someone who just wants to help weed a flower garden—all are encouraged to sign up to be one of Golden Valley's volunteers.

To see other volunteer opportunities and to sign up, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/community/volunteers/index.php.



Teen Committee Seeks Applicants

The Golden Valley City Council is taking applications for the September 2015–April 2016 term of the City's Teen Committee. A subcommittee of the Open Space and Recreation Commission, the Teen Committee helps promote teen perspectives on issues and activities for the City and advises on matters referred by the Open Space and Recreation Commission or the City Council. The group meets the fourth Monday of each month, 6 pm, at

Brookview Community Center. Meetings are cancelled due to lack of an agenda if there is no business to be discussed or if there is no quorum.

Deadline to apply is July 1, 2015. Applicants will be notified in August of committee selection.



Parks And Recreation Expands With Wealth Of New Programs

Parks and Recreation staff have been doing a lot of brainstorming lately, resulting in an influx of new programs, activities, and changes set for summer 2015.

“We’re constantly looking for new opportunities and ways to improve the park and recreation system for residents,” says Rick Birno, parks and recreation director. “We’re really looking forward to the 2015 season.”

Last summer Brookview Grill expanded its food and beverage service to offer beer, wine, and mixed drinks.

Here’s a preview of what’s coming this year.



Improved Online Registration System

To start with, residents will now have a friendlier experience signing up for recreation programs, activities, and facilities with the City’s new and improved online registration system. Look for more options in an easy-to-use interface (see story on page 6).



Mobile Summer Playgrounds

On Mondays and Wednesdays between June 8 and July 26, Seeman, Yosemite, North Tyrol, and Stockman parks will be visited by Golden Valley’s new Mobile Summer Playground.

Recreation staff members will swing by a park during a scheduled visit (see summer recreation catalog), and bring with them a variety of equipment for playground activities such as kickball, T-ball, soccer, group games, and arts and crafts.

“We wanted to visit areas in the City that don’t have playground programs and to give kids an opportunity to enjoy some scheduled activities in their own neighborhoods,” says Brian Erickson, recreation supervisor.

Watch the City website for updates on specific dates and times.

Registration Required For Summer Playground Series

Golden Valley will once again offer its morning and afternoon summer playground series with one difference: people now need to register ahead of time. It will still be free, and nothing else about the program will change, Erickson says, but because it has become so popular, signing up online will help the recreation staff manage the events.

There will also be no summer programs at Lakeview and South Tyrol parks this year due to construction projects in the area.



Concerts In The Park

With help from a new sponsorship program, last year the City expanded the number of Concerts in the Park from seven to 12. There will again be 12 concerts this year, including some specifically targeted for a younger demographic (details available on the City website and coming in the May/June *CityNews*).

“When we specifically label it as a kids concert, people have a better understanding of what to expect and that they should bring their children,” says Carrie Anderson, recreation supervisor.

More Movies In The Park

Last year’s showing of *The Lego Movie* at Brookview Park “was a huge hit with the community,” Anderson says. “This year, we purchased our own 16- by 9-foot inflatable movie screen and have scheduled three movies in three locations.”

A sing-a-long version of *Frozen* is scheduled for Scheid Park Aug 20. Other movies are scheduled for Brookview Golf Course July 31 (people will be able to sit on the lawn bowling green to watch; Brookview Grill will offer \$1 hot dogs, \$.50 soda, and \$.25 popcorn) and Brookview Park Aug 13 (movies TBD). Movies are all family-friendly and start at dusk.

“People can bring their own food and beverages to the movies,” Anderson says.



Lawn Bowling

Golden Valley’s first brief lawn bowling season was a big success, says Ben Disch, Brookview Golf operations manager.

“There was an excellent turn-out. It was much busier than anticipated,” Disch says. “And feedback was extremely positive.”

The lawn bowling program got a late start last summer but will be open for the full season for its second year. Two new leagues, one for kids and one for seniors, will play Tuesdays from 10 to 11 am.

Register now for play times and leagues.

FlingGolf On Par 3

FlingGolf is a relatively new concept. Instead of using a club to hit a ball, golfers will use a fling device to hurl the ball. You play an entire round with one fling stick.

It’s like golfing meets lacrosse, Disch says. “We came across the concept online and thought, ‘this looks cool.’”

“We’re excited to try it out,” he says. “It’s for anyone looking to experience the golf course from a different perspective.”

You can book a round of FlingGolf the same way you book tee times for regular golf.

Golf Bikes At Brookview

Brookview Golf Course will be the first in the state to use golf bikes, which are fat-tire bikes that serve the same purpose as golf carts. They have a place to hold golf clubs and a small cooler above the back tire for beverages.

Golf bikes have become popular in Colorado, Florida, and Arizona, and since Brookview already started offering fat bikes for winter recreation, it made sense to provide them in the summer, Birno says.

“It’s a great way to play golf and get a great workout,” he says.

The bikes will be available for \$15 for an 18-hole round and \$10 for a 9-hole round.



Sand Volleyball

“We started sand volleyball last year and nearly filled up seven teams for the co-rec league,” Anderson says. “It went great, but we’re looking to make this year even better.”

League play will be on Tuesdays over 10 weeks starting June 2, with a fall league starting in August. Register for the summer league by May 15, Anderson says. Watch the City website for fall registration deadlines.

Use Common Sense When Buying, Selling Online

GVPD Provides Safe Meeting Place For Craigslist Transactions

If you use Craigslist or any other online service that allows you to buy from or sell to nearby people, it's inevitable you'll sometimes need to meet up with strangers to complete the transaction.

This can be worrisome. A few years ago in Golden Valley, a man who thought he'd be purchasing an X-Box—bringing with him several hundred dollars in cash—ended up getting robbed of all his money, says Joanne Paul, crime analyst.

“The perpetrator knew he'd have cash on him,” Paul says. “It was a set-up.”

But, she says, the vast majority of transactions go as planned, and Craigslist and any number of similar websites are here to stay. When it comes to avoiding those few dishonorable people, it's just a matter of being smart about your transactions.

Choose A Safe Location

The main thing you should consider when meeting up with a stranger is the location.

The Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) allows people to meet up in the department's lobby, Paul says. Simply arrange to meet at 7800 Golden Valley Rd, let the front desk staff know why you're there, and make the transaction in the lobby. The lobby is open 24/7.

Even if you were unlucky enough to make plans with a crook, you will likely scare them off if the meeting is under the surveillance of a police department.

To ensure people's safety when making online transactions, most police departments now allow meet-ups in their lobbies, Paul says. However, if you don't live in Golden Valley, call ahead of time to make sure your police department is OK with a lobby transaction, or if they'll be open.

If for whatever reason you can't meet at a police department, the next best thing is to go to a very public place, like a coffee shop, Paul says. The important thing is that there are other people around. Never meet with a stranger in a secluded location, like a parking lot, and never go to their home or have them come to yours.

Also, bring a friend or family member along if possible. There is safety in numbers.

Finally, before you go to the meeting place, let others know where you are going and when you plan to be back.

Besides that, use common sense, Paul says.

“If the deal seems too good to be true, it probably is,” she says. “I'm not telling people not to use these resources, but be smart about it and don't put yourself in a position where you can get hurt or have your money or products stolen.”

2015 Neighborhood Watch Annual Meetings

The Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD), cannot have an officer on every corner, so involvement from residents is essential in preventing crime. You can help keep your community safe from criminals by participating in Neighborhood Watch.

The GVPD hosts two Neighborhood Watch meetings per year and offers meetings for new groups and individual neighborhoods upon request. The annual meetings include a crime prevention refresher, an update on crime patterns and trends in Golden Valley, and more.

April 20, 7 pm & Oct 10, 1 pm
GVPD Training Room, 7800 Golden Valley





Firefighters Respond To CO Mystery

A recent call about two carbon monoxide detectors sounding in the same home posed a mystery to the Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD). Although the alarms were signaling the presence of a poisonous gas, when firefighters arrived, their equipment detected no CO.

They did find, however, that the detectors had fully charged batteries and did not sound the alarm in error. The alarms indicated there had earlier been a life-threatening amount of CO in the home, though apparently the gas had cleared.

When the resident first heard the alarms go off, he checked the batteries, unplugged the alarms, and left the house. Nothing seemed out of the ordinary, but nonetheless he called the GVFD before returning home.

“This resident didn’t do the right thing right away, which is immediately walk out of the home and call CenterPoint Energy, but he did eventually leave the home and contacted us before reentering,” says Stephen Baker, fire education specialist.

“We investigated with a CenterPoint official and found that the water heater was malfunctioning, releasing a deadly amount of carbon monoxide,” Baker says. “Luckily for the home owner, the venting system was working correctly.”

While it’s hard to say what happened for certain, Baker’s theory is that a gust of wind from outside created a backdraft of airflow through the venting system, causing the CO to back up into the home for a very brief amount of time. A deadly

amount of CO rushed inside just for a few seconds, triggering the detectors, before once again flowing back outside. Had the venting system not been working properly, the resident probably wouldn’t have survived, Baker says.

That’s how dangerous carbon monoxide can be. The reliability of a single venting system can be the difference between life and death.

“We generally talk about carbon monoxide danger in the fall, when people are turning their furnaces on for the first time in months, but this is a reminder that carbon monoxide poisoning can happen any time of year,” Baker says.

Vents clog up. Water heaters, dryers, and furnaces malfunction. This is a fact of life. So make sure the CO alarms in your home are fully charged and operating. There must be, by law, a detector within 10 feet of every sleeping area.

Annually inspect your furnace, water heater, and venting systems.

If the CO alarm sounds, get out of the home immediately, call your energy provider, and do not go back inside until the issue is resolved, even if it means staying at a friend’s place for the night, Baker says. If you feel any symptoms of CO poisoning (dizziness, nausea, headache, weakness, confusion, blurred vision), call 911. 

GV Firefighters Raised Nearly \$13,000 In *Fight For Air*

Golden Valley firefighters, along with family and friends, participated in the Feb 21 American Lung Association *Fight For Air*, a fundraiser that brought multiple fire departments and firefighters to Minneapolis for a 31-story climb in full fire gear.

Team Golden Valley raised \$12,775 this year; it has raised more than \$87,775 over the years. Golden Valley has been named the top fundraising team for seven of the nine years it participated in the climb. This year it was second to Chanhassen Fire.

Golden Valley Firefighter Ken Bence was once again the top fundraiser for the team. 



2015 PMP Moves To Northwest GV

The next section of the City's ongoing Pavement Management Program (PMP) includes 2.3 miles of street in the area north of Plymouth Ave, east of Hwy 169, south of Naper Ave, and west of the General Mills James Ford Bell Research Center.

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

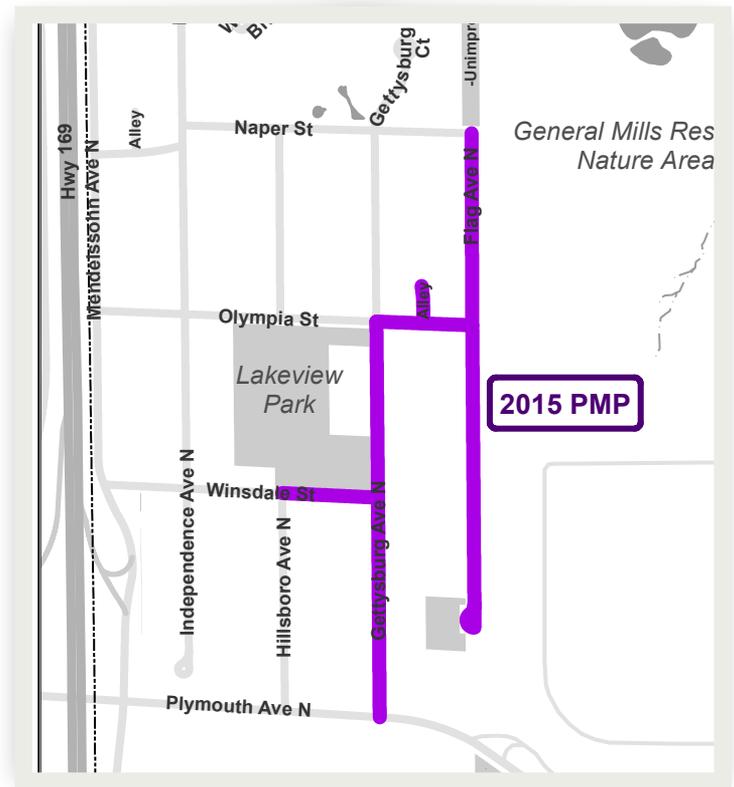
Because the utility repairs required as part of the project significantly exceed the planning level cost estimates, the project will be split into three small projects to be done in 2015, 2016, and 2017.

Streets to be reconstructed in 2015 include:

- Gettysburg Ave N from Plymouth Ave N to Olympia St
- Winsdale St from Gettysburg to Hillsboro Ave N
- Olympia St from Gettysburg to Flag Ave N
- Flag Ave N from Naper St to cul-de-sac

The 2015 PMP project was designed in 2014. City staff completed preliminary survey and design work and met with affected property owners, and the City Council authorized the project at a public hearing Jan 6, 2015. The City took bids for the 2015 PMP in February, and work is expected to start this spring.

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



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

To date, the City of Golden Valley has reconstructed 96 of 120 miles of streets as part of the PMP

Spring Street Sweeping Starts Soon

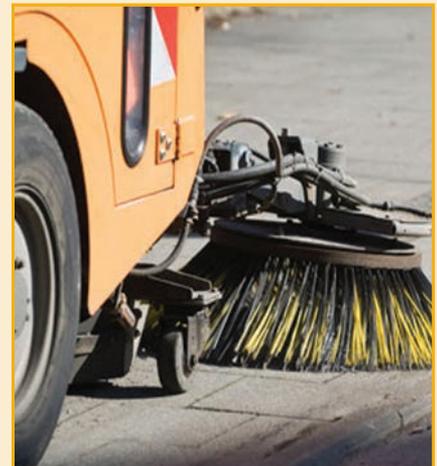
Golden Valley is divided into four sections for street sweeping. This allows crews to rotate sections each year so no area is always first or last. However, the rotation will not change this year because an early snowfall prevented crews from finishing the fall sweep in Section III last year. Section III leads off the rotation, followed by Sections II, I, and IV.

- **Section III boundaries:** Hwy 100, north City limit, east City limit, Hwy 55
- **Section II boundaries:** Winnetka Ave, north City limit, Hwy 100, Hwy 55
- **Section I boundaries:** Winnetka Ave, north City limit, south City limit, west City limit
- **Section IV boundaries:** Hwy 55, Winnetka Ave, south City limit, east City limit

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

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

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





Citywide Property Maintenance Inspections

Inspectors Complete First Round, Ready For Second

When home maintenance is neglected, no matter the source of the problem, it has a twofold negative affect. First, poorly maintained homes annoy neighbors, disturb community relations, and can prompt potential home buyers to look in other areas, dropping housing values. Second, such homes can set off a chain reaction of bad maintenance in entire neighborhoods.

For years the City of Golden Valley handled neighborhood property concerns on a complaint-only basis. In response to citizen feedback, the City Council decided to take a more proactive approach. Last year the City hired an additional inspector to help conduct inspections of all Golden Valley residential properties, a process that will continue annually with the hope to eventually bring all homes into compliance.

“The inspections went very well, and I came away with the fact that residents of Golden Valley should be proud to live in such a nice and well-maintained city,” says inspector David Gustafson (see sidebar for most common infraction encountered).

“We want to build upon what we encountered last year,” Gustafson says. “It’s an ongoing effort to keep homes in the best shape possible. Currently we’re working to strengthen our code and streamline it at the same time.”

This year, the City will begin updating its property maintenance code to include international standards and make it easier for inspectors to address more complicated issues like vehicles parked on the lawn and improper dumpster storage.

Watch for updates in future newsletters. In the meantime, property maintenance inspections will continue as scheduled.

Inspectors Are Here To Help

Bad siding, storm damaged roofs, broken windows, unkempt yards, illegal building extensions, peeling paint, rickety decks—whatever it is, Golden Valley’s approach is to help residents become aware of problems and take care of violations before they get out of hand. That’s why inspectors don’t write orders if they find violations on the first visit.

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

Often people don’t know they have a property maintenance problem. If you’re not sure, call the property maintenance inspectors at 763-593-8057 and ask for advice. If you’re overwhelmed with property maintenance issues or are unsure how to handle a particular issue, inspectors will set up an appointment to stop by, take a look, and perhaps provide suggestions. They will also help educate residents as they meet them.

The City’s Inspections Department (763-593-8090) is an excellent resource for things like whether you need a permit, City requirements, and even the permit history of your home (so you can see if work has been done on your home previously).

Call 763-593-8057 or visit goldenvalleymn.gov and click on the “Your Home and Yard” link for more resources on property maintenance. 

Trash Can Placement Most Common Code Violation

Issue Also Generates Most Complaints From Neighbors

After conducting the first round of citywide property maintenance inspections of all homes in Golden Valley, inspectors found the No. 1 violation to be improper trash can placement.

According to City Code, containers must be stored no more than 3 feet from the primary or accessory structure and must at all times be located behind the front of the primary structure. Containers may only be placed at the curb from 5 pm the day before collection to 9 pm the day of collection.

Acceptable options for trash can placement include:

- on the side of the house or garage
- screened from view by solid fencing
- inside of the garage

Questions? Contact the City’s property maintenance inspectors at 763-593-8057. 

Traffic Safety A Team Effort

Take Extra Care Around Emergency Vehicles And Construction Zones

This is going to be a big construction year for Golden Valley. With the usual amount of work on the pavement management project, combined with the start of construction on Douglas Drive and County overlay projects, there's no better time than now to think about traffic safety in construction zones, and around emergency vehicles.

Work Zones Require Alert Driving

"Everyone has a responsibility for making work zones safe," says Mark Ray, street maintenance supervisor. "We want you to get through the work zone safely and we want our crews to not get injured or worse while in the work zone. It is a team effort."

There's a reason speeding through a work zone will result in an automatic \$300 fine under state law.

Fatalities in road construction and maintenance work zones averaged 669 per year from 2007 through 2012, according to the Centers for Disease Control. That's why safe driving through construction zones should be a priority for everyone, no matter how inconvenienced or agitated they feel by the delays.

Roadway work zones are wherever workers, flaggers, or surveyors are visible in bright yellow-green or orange vests, or where there are marked orange cones or barrels, concrete barriers, traffic control devices, or moving vehicles with flashers. Roadway construction may be operating both day and night.

From 2009–2013, crashes in work zones caused more than 4,400 deaths (85 percent of which were drivers or passengers), according to the US Department of Transportation. Rear-end collisions are the most common type of work zone crash.

The main causes of work zone crashes, says the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), are drivers speeding and not paying attention. For safety's sake, MnDOT suggests drivers stay alert, obey posted speed limits, and stay off cell phones.

Expect that work zones will change. When driving in a work zone, avoid unnecessary lane changes, and never enter a road blocked with barriers, signs, or cones. Above all, be patient. Many lives are at stake, including your own.

Move Over, Slow Down For Emergency Vehicles

Most drivers know they are required to pull over and make way for emergency vehicles with activated lights and sirens. But too many drivers either don't know or don't obey the law that requires them to slow down and move over when passing emergency vehicles parked on the roadside.



"It's an everyday, common-place thing that people do not give us the space the law requires," says Golden Valley Police Officer Rob Zarrett.

Traffic accidents are a leading cause of death for on-duty police officers.

The "move over" law, also known as the Ted Foss Law, was passed after Minnesota State Trooper Ted Foss was hit and killed during a traffic stop in 2000. The law requires passing motorists on two-lane highways to leave a lane vacant between them and parked emergency vehicles, providing a buffer space for emergency personnel.

If you are unable to move over due to an obstruction or you don't have enough time to move over, then at least slow down, Zarrett says.

Failing to take these actions can lead to a ticket and fine exceeding \$100.

The law also applies to maintenance crews, ambulances, fire trucks, tow trucks, and other government vehicles parked on the side of the road with emergency lights activated.

In fact, Zarrett says, it's best to slow down and allow space for any parked vehicle. It's just a good habit to get into, especially when the weather is bad or the roads are icy. You never know if someone might be trying to change a tire or if a child will run out from behind the parked car. 

UPCOMING events

PHOTO BY ALYSSA EUTENEUER, VIEWS OF THE VALLEY 2014

Run the Valley

Sat, April 11 | 8 am (see page 16)

SENIOR SPRINT FORUM

Wed, April 15 | 8 am (see page 16)
Brooklyn Park Community Center
5600 85th Ave N

Free event features keynote speaker, informational booths on aging, coffee, and treats. For adults 55+ and family members. Pre-register at 763-503-2520 or email.info@nwhhsc.org. Sponsored by NW Hennepin Human Services Council and Senior Leadership Committee.

Preventing Genocide

Sat, April 18 | 10–11:30 am
Crystal Community Center, 4800 Douglas Dr N
Presentation hosted by Human Rights Commissions of Crystal, Golden Valley, New Hope, and Robbinsdale.

Spring Brush Pick-Up

April 28–May 12 (see page 4)

STEP TO IT CHALLENGE KICK-OFF

May 3–30

Participants in this Hennepin County program record the number of steps they walk each week or the time spent doing activities such as biking, Tai Chi, etc. Twenty-three cities compete to see which one has the most active residents. Register at www.steptoit.org.

2015 BIKE RODEO

Wed, May 6 | 6–8 pm (rain or shine)
Crystal Community Center
4800 Douglas Dr N, Crystal

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

HRC CONVERSATIONS: HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS

Thurs, May 14 | 6:30 pm

Perpich Center for Arts Education
6125 Olson Memorial Hwy, Golden Valley

The Blank Slate Theatre presents “bottom,” a play based on the stories of real sex trafficking survivors. Hosted by Golden Valley Human Rights Commission, HRC Conversations brings the community together for dialogue on current human rights issues.

Views Of The Valley Photo Contest

Fri, June 12 | 4:30 pm (see page 3)

Public Safety Open House

Wed, June 17 | 6–9 pm

Golden Valley Public Safety Building & Fire Houses

More information at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/openhouse/index.php.

FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION STREET DANCE

Sat, June 20 | 5 pm–midnight

Chester Bird American Legion

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

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

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

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



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www.goldenvalleymn.gov

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Plymouth Tree Sale

The City of Plymouth's spring tree and shrub sale is accepting orders from Golden Valley residents through May 1. Trees range from \$25-\$49; shrubs from \$7-\$12. Trees and shrubs do not come with a warranty. Quantities are limited, so order early.

Get order forms online at www.plymouthmn.gov or at the Public Works counter in Golden Valley City Hall.

Plants will be available for pick-up May 15 and 16 at the Plymouth public works maintenance facility (14900 23rd Ave N).

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

21st Annual RUN THE VALLEY IS APRIL 11

Get in gear and *Run the Valley* Sat, April 11, to help raise money for the Golden Valley Human Services Fund. One hundred percent of the proceeds are allocated to non-profit organizations that serve Golden Valley residents in need.

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

Water stops and post-race complimentary snacks are donated by area businesses. For 2015, corporate sponsors are Bassett Creek Dental, City of Golden Valley, Liberty Carton, and Park Nicollet. Other sponsors include: Al's Coffee, Byerly's, Caribou Coffee, Cable 12/NWCT, Einstein Bros Bagels, Finken Water Solutions, Frito Lay, Go Health Chiropractic, Old Fashioned Donut Shoppe, Perkins Family Restaurant-Hwy 55, Perkins Family Restaurant-394, Pilgrim Cleaners, Road ID, Valley Pastries, and Yoplait USA.

To Register

- In Person: \$35 by April 10, \$40 on race day (7-7:45 am at Brookview Community Center). Check, cash, or VISA/MasterCard.
- Online (by April 9): \$30 www.active.com or www.zapevent.com (additional fee charged).
- Children 12 and under may register for \$20 when accompanied by an adult (chip timing not included—to be eligible for medal, chip timing must be used).

For more information, call Park and Recreation at 763-512-2345 or go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/runthevalley.

City Outlines Lawn Maintenance Requirements

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

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



This document is available in alternate formats upon a 72-hour request. Please call 763-593-8006 (TTY: 763-593-3968) to make a request. Examples of alternate formats may include large print, electronic, Braille, audiocassette, etc.

