



cityNEWS



◦ WINTER IN THE VALLEY BRINGS MUCH TO ENJOY

Trails, fat tire biking, disc golf, and the metro area's best ice rinks—experience an array of winter fun right in your back yard!

SEE PAGE 6

Photo by Stan Waldhauser,
Views of the Valley 2015

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Golden Valley's Comprehensive Plan, which lays out a 30-year vision for the community, is ready for its 10-year update.

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2016 City Budget

Additional Funds Allocated For Infrastructure Improvements

Golden Valley's responsible, long-term perspective to financial planning and management is evaluated each year, starting with budget planning in January and concluding in December when the City Council adopts the budget and certifies the final property tax levy. Citizens can provide input during the budget process by attending meetings or contacting City Council members or staff.

While Golden Valley has always strived to provide quality services to its taxpayers, the Great Recession reduced the City's ability to fund services at levels expected by residents and diminished its ability to continue planned infrastructure improvements at pre-recession levels. The 2016 City budget allocates additional dollars in the areas of parks, buildings, and street overlays to get infrastructure improvements back on track.

Total Tax Levy And Financing Infrastructure

At its Sept 1 meeting, the Golden Valley City Council certified a preliminary 2016 tax levy of \$19,942,310. This total tax levy is the amount of property taxes needed to help fund the City's general operations and bond payments.

Of the proposed total tax levy for 2016, \$14,487,955 is allocated to the General Fund for operations (police, fire, inspections, engineering, parks and recreation, transfers, etc), \$5,154,355 is allocated for bond payments (for pavement management and equipment purchases), and \$300,000 is allocated to a tax abatement levy for intersection improvements at Hwy 55 and Boone Ave.

Transfers from the General Fund help fund street overlays and improvements to buildings and parks. Before the Great Recession, those transfers equaled \$925,000 per year. From 2009-2015, transfers ranged from \$294,440 to \$475,000. In the 2016, \$725,000 is allocated to fund buildings, parks, and overlays.

For example, in 2016 the General Fund will transfer \$225,000 to the Park Improvement Fund, where a total of \$338,265 will fund replacement of one park play structure, bleachers at four ballfields, outdoor basketball hoops in two parks, signage in four parks, a sun shelter in one park, resurfacing of three ten-

nis courts, and a new gazebo at Brookview Park. The City maintains 19 parks and 11 nature areas.

Will My City Taxes Go Up?

Taxable market values overall increased by 6.62 percent. Due to the many changes in property values, the tax impact could vary for each property.

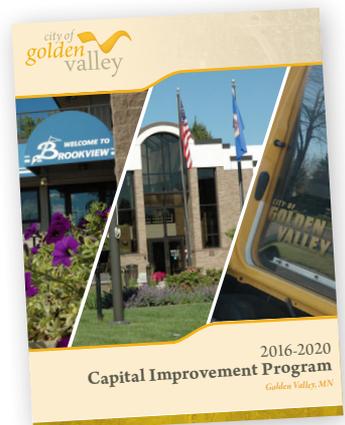
The median home value increased 2.52 percent after the Homestead Market Value Credit, from \$252,500 to \$258,000. The City portion of taxes on the \$258,000 home is expected to increase by \$39.20, or \$3.27/month, but because values for each property vary, you may see a different total tax amount than your neighbor.

If your taxes increase, you may qualify for one of Minnesota's three property tax relief programs: the Homestead Credit Refund Program, the Targeting Property Tax Refund, or the Senior Citizen Property Tax Deferral Program. For more information about these programs, go to www.revenue.state.mn.us or call 651-296-3781.

More information about the proposed City budget is available at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/budget/index.php or call Finance Director Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010.



View the complete documents at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/budget/.



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Election Returns Three Incumbents

The Nov 3 City election returned three incumbents to the City Council—Mayor Shep Harris and Council Members Joanie Clausen and Steve Schmidgall.

Harris defeated Marti Micks to return for a second four-year term. Clausen and Schmidgall also return, defeating four other candidates (Carol Barry, Hattie Bonds, Andy Schuler, and Paul Scofield) to fill two four-year Council terms (see election results at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/elections/index.php).

Harris has lived in Golden Valley since 2004 and works in government relations for Fredrikson & Bryon. He has served on the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation, the Robbinsdale Schools Legislative Action Coalition Steering Committee, the Sabes Jewish Community Center Board, and the Minnesota Citizen Stream Monitoring Program. He is also a co-founder of the Bassett Creek Neighborhood Group, the Golden Valley Business Council, and Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Quad-Communities. Harris has a bachelor's degree from American University in Washington, DC.

Clausen is a life-long resident of Golden Valley and owner of Town Crier Promotions, a local business that sells imprinted items. Clausen currently serves on the Northwest Community

Television Commission and Board and has served on the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation, the Golden Valley Historical Society, and was a facilitator for Envision Golden Valley. She has a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota.

Schmidgall has lived in Golden Valley since 1984 and is a manager in the building construction industry. He's served on the Robbinsdale School District's Financial Advisory Council since 2007 and served on the City's Planning Commission for nine years as well as various positions over the years in Sandburg Middle School and Neill Elementary School parent-teacher organizations. Schmidgall has degree in environmental design (architecture) and a MBA, both from the University of Minnesota.

The newly elected Council members will be sworn into office Jan 5, 2016. 



City Imposes New Rules On Door-To-Door Soliciting

The City of Golden Valley recently amended its ordinance that regulates door-to-door soliciting. Here is a quick look at what you need to know:

- Anyone planning on going door-to-door to fundraise or sell a product/service must first apply for a peddlers and solicitors license with the City. Those who go door-to-door to distribute literature but who aren't selling anything, asking for donations, or engaging the homeowner in conversation, do not need a license. Also, anyone age 17 and under participating in fundraising programs for, or sponsored by, a public or private elementary, junior high, high school, or bona fide children's organization (ie, scouting, youth sports, arts, or similar extra-curricular activities) does not need a license but must comply with the rules and regulations.
- Those who are granted the license must wear a City-issued ID card on a front outer garment and have the license on them at all times. The ID card features the peddler/solicitor's

picture and the dates the license is valid (permits are valid for only 30 days).

- Permits are issued per individual, not per business and/or organization.
- Peddling or soliciting may not occur before 9 am or after 8 pm.
- Peddlers and solicitors may only approach the front door or main entrance of residence or place of business and must abide by posted "No Soliciting" signs.
- Peddlers and solicitors must promptly leave the premises following completion of a transaction or an unsuccessful attempt to contact the resident of the premises.
- Peddlers and solicitors may not claim that their license or certificate of registration constitutes an endorsement by the City.

For more information, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/business/licenses/doortodoor/index.php. 

Recycle Everywhere In Your Home

About half of home recyclables never make it to the recycling bin. We do well recycling kitchen items, but our bathrooms, laundry rooms, and home offices have lots of recyclables we throw out. Expand your recycling habit by using convenient recycling bins and signage and mix in a little education and fun. Recycle everywhere in your home with these tips and tricks.

Make Recycling Easy

Start by putting a recycling bin, bag, or box next to every garbage can in your house. Then label your bins with signs so that everyone knows how to sort their recycling and trash. If you have limited space, get creative. Hang a bag on the doorknob of your bathroom, laundry room, or office for recyclables. Put a divider in your wastebasket to make it trash on one side and recycling on the other. You could also hang a recycling container inside a cabinet or mount them on a wall.

Recycle In Every Room

Did you know there are more than 20 items in the bathroom alone that are recyclable? The following list will help you find more items in the bathroom, laundry room, and office.

Bathroom

- Shampoo, soap, lotion, mouthwash, and contact lens cleaner bottles (keep caps on plastic bottles, but remove and toss pumps and spray nozzles)
- Boxes from toothpaste, medication, and other toiletries
- Empty medicine bottles
- Empty toilet paper rolls
- Plastic containers from baby wipes and cleaning wipes

Laundry Room

- Laundry detergent and fabric softener bottles (leave caps on plastic bottles)
- Stain remover and other cleaner bottles (remove and toss spray pumps)



- Cat litter jugs and boxes
- Dryer sheet and laundry detergent boxes

Office

- Paper (if shredded, place in a closed paper bag)
- Mail
- Catalogs, magazines, and newspapers
- Office supply boxes
- Paper file folders
- Soft cover books
- Tissue boxes

Make It Fun

Involve the entire family in recycling by making it fun. Have kids make a “please recycle” sign that shows what items can go in the recycling bin. Place a basketball rim above the recycling bin so your family can slam dunk their recyclables. Make it a challenge: Try to generate only one bag of trash a week, and once you’ve conquered that, get a smaller trash can.

Recycle in every room. Learn more tips and get resources at www.hennepin.us/recycleeverywhere. 🐦

Golden Valley Recycles

GRAY Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Christmas	Sat, Dec 26

BLUE Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
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.

Golden Valley **ABUZZ** About Pollinator Habitats



There's a buzz building over pollinator habitats. In recent years, Golden Valley has seen a boom in bee- and butterfly-friendly open spaces, with an estimated 40 acres of native vegetation habitats created in the last 15 years.

About 24 acres of these pollinator habitats were created by the City through the establishment of natural buffers and filter strips near water bodies. The remaining 16 acres were established by property owners like General Mills (which planted a pollinator garden this summer), and residents like Sue Lindgren, who has maintained a pollinator garden most of her life.



Components Of A Good Pollinator Garden

Lindgren's pollinator garden fills the center of her back yard, wraps around the border along the fence, and spills onto the front lawn, where a sign depicting a bee labels it a "pesticide free zone." If you're willing to get your hands dirty, don't demand perfection, and aren't afraid to ask questions, maintaining a pollinator garden is easy, she says.

Avoid Pesticides

Refraining from pesticide use is one of the key ingredients to a pollinator garden, according to the US Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which states that "some pesticide residues can kill pollinators for several days after the pesticide is applied."

If you're going to use pesticides on your property, use sparingly and avoid any that contain neonicotinoids, which may affect the central nervous system of pollinator insects, says Eric Eckman, public works specialist.

Even before she knew about the dangers to pollinators, Lindgren avoided using pesticides in her gardens, saying she didn't want to eat them either.

Without pesticides, Lindgren had to get creative. She sprays soapy water on the plants, shakes pests into a jar of soapy water (the soap kills them more quickly), or puts oak ash on the plants, all nontoxic techniques to control pests.

For slugs, she places an empty cat food can full of stale beer near any infestations, which attracts the slugs and traps them. "They'll go for the Hamm's," Lindgren says. "They're not fussy."

For more ideas for natural pest control, visit Easy Earth at http://eartheasy.com/grow_nat_pest_cntrl.htm.

Choose Diverse Plants

The US Fish and Wildlife Service recommends choosing plants that flower at different times of the year, planting in clumps, and

providing a variety of flower colors and shapes to attract different pollinators. Whenever possible, choose native plants.

Lindgren's garden contains an assortment of flowers and vegetables, including tomatoes, peppers, pumpkins, green beans, pole beans, zucchini, kale, chard, beets, marigolds, and more.

Mind The Larva

The last component of a good pollinator garden is the presence of nesting plants, in which pollinators can live or lay their eggs. Pollinator larva thrive on plant leaves, so allow parts of the garden to revert to wild grasses, weeds, and wildflowers. Monarch butterfly caterpillars, for example, thrive in milkweed.

Lindgren says she's always allowed a certain amount of weeds in her garden. "You have to accept a little bit more weeds, but some weeds are really pretty, and if you're willing to be a little bit looser, these gardens are not much work at all."

Even though she says hers is not the "perfect golf course lawn," it turns out that's part of what makes a good pollinator garden.

Why It's Important

Pollinator gardens and habitats reduce chemical runoff into local waterways. They produce food free of potentially harmful pesticides. And, above all, they promote pollinators, whose global populations have dropped off over the last few decades.

"Insects like bees and butterflies, birds, and small mammals—these pollinator species are critical to perpetuating and proliferating our food sources," Eckman says. "They are extremely important to the world."

For more information on how to plant a pollinator garden, visit the US Fish and Wildlife Service at www.fws.gov/pollinators/pollinatorpages/yourhelp.html. 

Recreation Highlights

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

Youth

Youth Basketball (grades 2–7)—January–mid-March, register by Dec 11, \$55. Volunteer coaches needed.

Mites Basketball (grades K–1)—Instructional program, Jan 23–March 12, Crystal Community Center, \$45.

Drama Camp—Spend your break indulging in theater. Mon–Wed, Dec 28–30, 9 am–3 pm, \$60.

Winter Playground (ages 6–12)—Games, crafts, skating, sledding, etc. Mon–Wed, Dec 28–30, 1–3 pm, \$20.

Adult

Indoor Co-Rec Volleyball League—Wed, Jan 6–March 2, Davis, \$260/team.

Seniors

Various Tai Chi Classes—Tue & Thur starting Jan 5. Call for information.

Four-Hour Defensive Driving Course—Dec 10 & Jan 14, 9 am–1 pm, \$17. Call 763-512-2339 to register.

Speakers—Dec 3: “Easy Holiday Decorating;” Jan 7: “It’s More Than Books!” Both 1 pm, Calvary Coop, 7600 Golden Valley Rd, free. Jan 21: “Tax Changes for 2015” (free); Jan 27: “How to Stay Young Your First 100 Years (\$2 at door).” Both 10 am, Brookview. Call 763-512-2339 to register.

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.

Winter Is No Time To Hibernate In GV

Once again Brookview Golf Course will be open for business all winter, with trails for fat tire biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, skijouring, and winter walking. On weekends, warm up inside or around the outdoor fire pit and enjoy a variety of food and beverage offerings. Rest rooms and locker rooms will also be available. Here are just a few things to look for at Brookview this winter.

On The Course

Fattyshack—Brookview Grill will become the “Fattyshack” each winter, ready to serve the cocktails, burgers (including the new Fattyburger), and menu options customers have come to expect, says Ben Disch, Brookview Golf manager. It will generally be open Thursdays through Sundays and on school holidays. For a schedule and hours of operation, go to www.brookviewgolf.com/winter-recreation/index.html.

Fat Tire Biking—For the second year, Brookview will offer fat bike rentals for use on the winter trails. Fat bikes are rented in two-hour increments for \$25 and come with a bike helmet (required), a small storage bag, and lights for after-dark trail use. A waiver is required for all bike rentals (parent/guardian signature required for those under age 18), as is a credit card hold until the bike is returned. Rentals are available during winter Fattyshack hours. Call 763-512-2305 for reservations.

A winter trail grand opening is scheduled for Dec 11, and the Brookview Meltdown Fat Bike Snow Race is set for Jan 16. For details, go to www.brookviewgolf.com/winter-recreation/index.html.

Disc Golf—New this winter is disc golf on Brookview’s 18-hole course. Disc golf works like regular golf, but instead of hitting a ball into a hole, players throw specially-designed discs into chain baskets, counting up the number of throws it takes to get from the launch point to the basket.

Gotta Go Gotta Throw, a Golden Valley disc golf company, designed the course and is providing the equipment for this free activity. The Brookview Disc Golf Course will be open seven days a week beginning Nov 30. No discs? No problem. Rent them during Fattyshack hours for \$6 a bundle.

In The Parks

Skating Rinks—Look for a new rink at Stockman Park. Opening day is set for Sat, Dec 19, with staggered closing dates in February. To see a list of rinks, amenities, and hours of operation, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/parks/skatingrinks/index.php.

Winter Family Festival—Get out and enjoy a new winter recreation opportunity Jan 22 at Wesley Park (see page 15).

For a complete list of all City winter recreation activities, visit www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation/.

Eagle Scouts Complete Three City Projects

For a Boy Scout to achieve the top tier rank of Eagle Scout, he must first plan and complete a service project designed to benefit the community as a whole. Three such Eagle Scout service projects were completed this year in cooperation with the City of Golden Valley.

Tree Identification At SEA School

To help people appreciate the diversity of Minnesota's trees, Matthew Penick, 16, designed an interactive educational experience for the students at the SEA School (1751 Kelly Dr) and community at large.

Wooden posts identify 20 different tree species with a letter that corresponds to a field guide. The field guide, designed by Penick and compiled with the help of volunteers, lists scientific names and facts about each labeled tree. The guide can be found online at goo.gl/L5GdH1.

Penick worked closely with the SEA School and received guidance from Assistant City Forester Tim Teynor on the project,

which required months of planning, proposals, and approvals before it even reached the construction phase, a process required of all three Eagle Scout projects. Penick then led a team of volunteers to get the posts in the ground.

The whole project cost \$400, raised from private donations and family expenditures.

"I think it is important to teach kids about ecology and foster an appreciation of nature," Penick says.



Brookview Park Rebound Tennis Board

Robert Beane, 15, worked to install a rebound board at the Brookview Park tennis courts. Tennis players had been asking for a rebound board for years, but budget restraints and other priorities kept it from getting built, says Rick Birno, City parks and recreation director. With Beane supplying the plans and the labor, the City paid just under \$400 for materials.

"I was in charge of the construction," Beane says. "The rebound board appealed to me because I like building things. And to think people will be using it a lot during the summer is really interesting."

Though scouts may get help from the City or other organizations, they must be the ones leading the whole process for it to count as an Eagle Project, he says. This process puts them in charge of a large team of people.

"My family and friends helped, and also some kids from the troop and their parents," Beane says. "I would say at least 20 people in all."



Bike Racks At Wesley Park

Max Arneson, 15, likes to bike to his bus stop at Wesley Park. But, until now, there wasn't a rack there so he could lock up his bike before heading to school.

"I realized the parks could greatly benefit from bike racks," Arneson says. "I used to see kids just leaving their bikes on the ground."

So he contacted Al Lundstrom, Golden Valley's park maintenance supervisor, to see if he could work with the City on getting two bike racks installed. The City had been wanting to install bike racks at the park but didn't have the budget.

"I came to them at the right time with the right idea," Arneson says.

Once the project was approved by the Boy Scout Council, Arneson met with Lundstrom several times to work out the details, including which kind of bike racks to order.

The City agreed to pay for the bike racks, while Zeman Construction donated the concrete and other materials, JW Williams Construction Inc volunteered to pour the concrete, and a team of about 30 volunteers, including several other Boy Scouts, put in about 100 hours collectively for the installation effort. From beginning to end, the project took about a year and a half to complete. 





Golden Valley Revs Up For 2018 Comprehensive Plan

Once again it's time for Golden Valley to ask some serious long-range questions: Where does the City want to go over the next 30 years? What changes are anticipated in cultural trends, population, and development, and how should the City prepare? What hopes do residents have for the City's future? How does Golden Valley move ahead while honoring its past?

The Metropolitan Council requires all cities in the Twin Cities seven-county metro area to develop a Comprehensive Plan that looks ahead three decades, and state law requires that cities update these plans every 10 years.

Golden Valley last revised its Comprehensive Plan in 2008. While the 2018 revision is two years off, the City will need that time to lay out the groundwork for the next 30 years, says Jason Zimmerman, Golden Valley planning manager.

Met Council Regional Goals

In May 2014 the Metropolitan Council adopted "Thrive MSP 2040," a regional development guide that lays out a 30-year vision for the metro area. The guide assigns each city a designation to help plan for population and employment growth. Golden Valley (along with Crystal, New Hope, and Robbinsdale) has been designated Urban. In comparison, Minneapolis and St Louis Park are designated Urban Center while Plymouth is Suburban Edge. Urban communities are expected to plan for growth at average densities of at least 10 units per acre for development/redevelopment.

For Golden Valley, the vision outlined in the Thrive MSP 2040 guide suggests that the City re-examine its land use and zoning designations in key locations to gain a better

understanding of its existing housing stock and to develop an enhanced bicycle and pedestrian plan, among other items that address future growth.

Plan Elements And Public Input

The next step is for City staff to review the Met Council's plan elements, develop a work plan for City Council and Commission discussion, and structure a process for public input. Staff will then draft content as decisions are made and priorities set.

Golden Valley must submit its Comprehensive Plan to the Metropolitan Council by the end of 2018. The Met Council will review Golden Valley's Comp Plan and determine if it conforms to plan elements (see page 9) and is consistent with other adopted plans. Golden Valley's finalized Comprehensive Plan will then be managed by the City Council, which is required to consider the plan's goals, policies, and programs when reviewing and setting City ordinances.

"We're already well on our way to accommodating the Met Council's goals," Zimmerman says. "This won't require a huge shift in how we've been operating, but the City will need to translate that vision into more detailed local policies."

Metropolitan Council Required Plan Elements

The Met Council has identified seven required and two optional plan elements (see below) for cities to consider. Citizens are

encouraged to think about these plan elements and consider what they might like to see in Golden Valley's future.



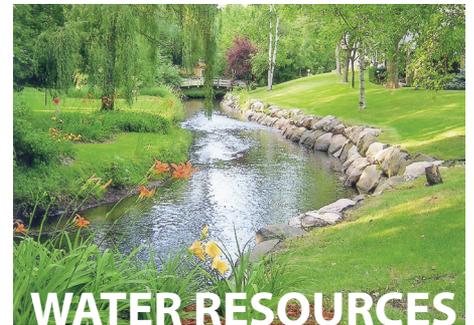
LAND USE

With populations expected to increase 10 percent over the next 30 years, existing and future land uses translate a community's projected growth into where, when, and how much development occurs. Other considerations include housing needs, employment patterns, recreational space, and commercial activities. The goal is to create livable neighborhoods, easy access to jobs, connected street patterns, and protected natural resources.



HOUSING

The Met Council's overall housing policy priority is to "create housing options that give people in all life stages and of all economic means viable choices for safe, stable, and affordable homes." This allows people to find housing affordable to them in the communities where they want to live.



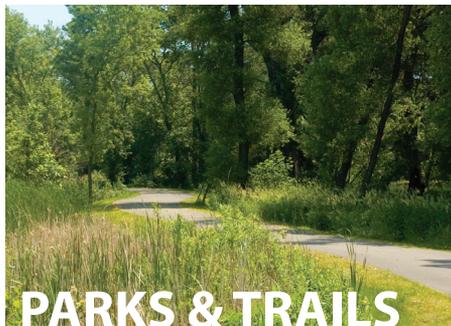
WATER RESOURCES

The prosperity, quality of life, and continued development of the region all depend on the sustainability of the quality and quantity of the region's water resources. Golden Valley needs to manage its use of aquifers for water supply, surface waters for ecological and development functions, and land use patterns for potential impacts to these resources.



IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation portion of the Comprehensive Plan lays out how the City intends to achieve its goals and the timeline it will follow.



PARKS & TRAILS

Parks and open space are key contributors to the region's livability, sustainability, and quality of life. Natural areas provide environmental benefits by preserving natural resources, reducing air pollution, and managing storm water runoff, and must be protected.



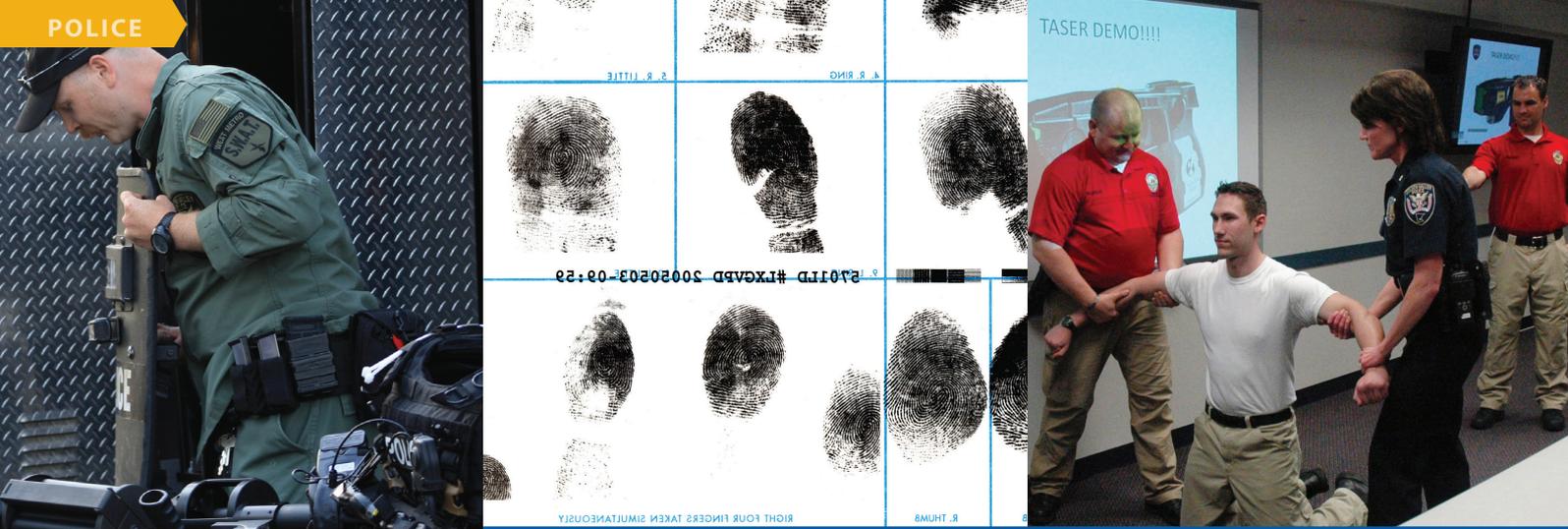
TRANSPORTATION

Updates in the City's plans should consider the needs of regional facilities such as principal arterial highways, metropolitan transit services, aviation services, and bicycle networks.

Optional Plan Elements

Economic Competitiveness—Regional economic competitiveness is a core element of the region's sustained prosperity. Collectively, the region must provide great locations for businesses to succeed—particularly those industries that export products or services beyond the metropolitan area and bring revenue and jobs to the region. Economic competitiveness refers to examining and strengthening the ability of the region to compete effectively and prosper in the global economy.

Resilience—As communities adjust to increasingly extreme weather events, stress on public facilities, and higher costs of services, there is a growing need to not only plan for these events, but also reduce the impacts through conscious climate adaptation and resilience planning. 



Policing: “It’s Not What You See On TV”

Get The Real Picture At Citizen’s Police Academy

For Renee and Mick Bergquist, attending Golden Valley’s Citizen’s Police Academy provided them with deeper insights into the workings of the police department, as well as valuable tips for how to run a better crime watch in their neighborhood.

“It made us more aware of several aspects of the department we didn’t know about,” Renee says. “You see how involved our police department is in all kinds of different areas. It was so interesting to find out how they pull their resources together.”

When the Bergquists moved to Golden Valley some 20 years ago, Renee volunteered to become the neighborhood watch captain, a position she holds to this day, and she has been involved in local crime prevention ever since. So when she and her husband learned about the Citizen’s Police Academy a few years back, they didn’t hesitate to sign up.

“I thought, the more knowledge I have, the more I can pass on to all our neighbors,” Renee says.

But the Academy is not just for people already involved in crime prevention.

“I highly recommend it for anyone. Anyone who can go, should go,” Renee says. She acknowledges that attending every Tuesday for eight weeks may sound intimidating, but it’s worth it. “Once you go for the first week, you’ll want to go back the next week.”

What Citizen’s Police Academy Offers

Golden Valley’s Citizen’s Police Academy is a community education multi-night event featuring presentations from members of the 911 dispatch center, the Hennepin County Crime Lab, the SWAT team, the drug task force, legal teams, the K-9 unit, and a number of other experts in police investigations, crime analysis, use-of-force, patrol operations, firearms, and medical examinations.

With demonstrations in K-9 enforcement, taser use, defensive tactics and interactive lessons, the eight-week course doesn’t see a dull moment, says Joanne Paul, Golden Valley crime analyst.

“Residents get to see a well-rounded picture of everything that the police department can provide to the community,” Paul says. “It’s a great way for people to learn about the police, because it’s not what you see on TV. Not everything gets solved in an hour. It’s a chance to go behind the scenes.”

The Academy also educates residents about how they can assist the police in crime prevention.

“Crime prevention starts with you,” Paul says. “The more you know, the better you can help us prevent and solve crimes.”

How To Sign Up

The GVPD Citizen’s Police Academy will run 6–9 pm every Tuesday from Jan 12–March 1, 2016.

Classes will be held at the Golden Valley Public Safety Building, 7800 Golden Valley Rd. There is no charge to attend.

For more information, contact the Golden Valley Police Department at 763-593-8079 or visit www.goldenvalleymn.gov/policy/gvpdu/, where you can download the Citizen’s Police Academy application.

To qualify for the Academy, you must live or work in Golden Valley, be 21 years of age, and have no felony convictions or misdemeanor arrests in the past three years. 



Golden Valley Set To Launch Emergency Notification System

In January, the City of Golden Valley will implement GV Emergency, a mass notification tool that will help the City more effectively communicate with residents in the event of an emergency. But for the tool to be effective, residents are asked to sign up.

GV Emergency will provide important information via text, phone call, or email, depending on subscriber preferences. The system will be used only during community-wide or localized emergencies as well as in situations that may affect public safety or City services.

The messages would alert people who live and work in Golden Valley about the best actions to take to stay safe during events that:

- pose an immediate threat to life, health, property, or environment
- have already caused loss of life, health detriments, or property or environmental damage
- have a high probability of escalating to cause immediate danger to life, health, property, or environment

“GV Emergency is not going to replace the storm warning system or the Amber Alert system or other alerts,” says John Crelly, Golden Valley fire chief. “It’s a tool to help us push out as much critical information as we can as quickly as we can to residents about ongoing emergency events.”

What, specifically, could trigger a GV Emergency alert? According to Crelly, it could be a dangerous storm or its aftermath, flooding, a heat wave or extreme cold, an active shooter situation, a threatening fire or hazardous materials release, a public health issue, or a transportation emergency.

How It Works

GV Emergency will use a pre-designed program, tweaked to fit the needs of Golden Valley, available through the GovDelivery notification system.

Residents and businesses with listed phone numbers will automatically be included in the system, providing emergency notifications to land line phones. But since the City doesn’t have

a database of cell phone numbers and addresses, it’s important that residents and businesses sign up and indicate their preferences for receiving notifications (eg, text, cell phone, land line, or all of the above). The information you provide for notifications is protected and will not be shared or used for anything else.

Because GV Emergency can notify specific neighborhoods or portions of the community affected by an incident, it’s important to include address (or nearest intersection) information when you sign up. For example, Crelly says, if there is an accident that releases hazardous material into the air, the City could send an alert to nearby residents informing them about the situation and recommending what safety measures are to be taken.

“The way we put a message out now, we have to contact local news agencies and make our case that the message is worth reporting, or we post it on our website,” Crelly says. “GV Emergency notifications will be far more efficient and direct.”

“It’s a tool we hope to use as sparingly as possible,” adds Crelly. “Its importance lies in its ability to help us better supply you with information and help you to better protect yourself and your family.”

How To Sign Up

The official launch date for GV Emergency will be Jan 4, 2016.



To sign up, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/gv-emergency/index.php, create an account, and enter your information. You can choose to stop receiving GV Emergency notifications at any time by removing information from your account.

Since only those who sign up for the service will receive the notifications, the City urges residents to sign up and spread the word to friends and neighbors. Watch for frequent reminders in City publications, as well as opportunities to sign up at upcoming City events, such as the annual Public Safety Open House.



Flooding is just one situation that could trigger a notification from GV Emergency.

City Ready For **SNOW** Season

Will El Nino affect the coming winter in Minnesota? No one knows for sure, but Golden Valley's Public Works Department is ready to care for the City's 120 miles of local streets and 43 miles of sidewalks.

Questions about the City's winter street maintenance? Contact Public Works at 763-593-8030 or publicworksdept@goldenvalleymn.gov.

Plowing & De-icing Procedures

To keep traffic moving, crews first plow collector and arterial streets that connect neighborhoods to State and County roads. Plowing stops if strong winds and drifting result in unsafe conditions; it resumes when conditions improve. However, snow accumulation from consecutive snowfall events of less than 2 inches or hazardous/slippery conditions may initiate plowing and/or a snow emergency (see page 6 for winter parking rules).

Depending on weather conditions, de-icing crews use a variation of salt and additives on icy areas. Priority areas are treated

first, and all other areas are done when time permits. Priority areas include:

- intersections of City streets and County and State roads, school and pedestrian crossings, bridge decks, and all arterial street stop sign intersections
- street intersections having higher than average traffic volumes, and streets with hills and curves
- all other stop signs and areas deemed hazardous by public works or police staff

Are You Ready? ○

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

- Keep garbage cans and recycling carts in the driveway and off roadways and sidewalks.
- Keep sleds, toys, and portable basketball hoops away from the street.
- Never build snow forts or snow sculptures in the snow piles along the street.
- Reduce speed and keep a minimum distance of 50 feet from snowplows and sand trucks (frequent backing is necessary, and rear visibility is very limited).
- Never drive into a snow cloud or pass vehicles while they're plowing.
- Stay away from the end of a driveway when a snowplow is approaching.
- Listen to weather forecasts and adjust any travel plans accordingly.

Dealing With Plow Damage

The City is not liable for damages to obstructions in the road right-of-way (irrigation heads, landscaping, etc). These obstructions should either be removed from the right-of-way or marked clearly so plow drivers can avoid them. The City will only repair mailboxes actually hit by a plow and installed to United States

Postal Service Residential Mailbox Standards (for details, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/streets/maintenance.php). Check your mailbox to see that it complies. Sod damage can be reported to Public Works at 763-593-8030 in the spring. Damages to sod are repaired each spring with black dirt and seed or sod.

Snow Removal From Private Property

Minnesota State Statute (169.42) and City Code (Section 8.08) prohibit removing snow and ice from private property (including driveways and parking lots) to a roadway, across a roadway, or onto a sidewalk or adjacent property. If you or your plowing contractor have questions regarding this, contact Bert Tracy, public works maintenance manager, at 763-593-3981 or btracy@goldenvalleymn.gov.

Winter Parking Restrictions

Last year the City Council amended the City Code to prohibit parking on public streets and alleys Nov 1–March 31 from midnight–6 am daily. This change was based on input from residents expressing concerns about safety and how parked vehicles impact snow and ice removal. Please see page 14 for details about winter parking and information about safe winter driving. 

PMP Nears Final Reconstruction Phase

Golden Valley's Pavement Management Program (PMP) rehabilitates the City's aging streets as a long-term investment in the community's infrastructure.

The current section of the PMP includes 2.3 miles of streets 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.

Because the required utility repairs significantly exceed the planning level cost estimates, this portion of the PMP was split into three small projects to be done in 2015, 2016, and 2017.

In 2015, the following streets were reconstructed to City standards, including concrete curb and gutter:

- 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 project also addressed necessary repairs to the storm sewer, water mains, and sanitary sewer mains.

2016 PMP

In 2016 the City will reconstruct:

- Independence Ave N from Plymouth Ave N to Olympia St
- Winsdale St from Mendelssohn Ave N to Gettysburg Ave N
- Hillsboro Ave N from Plymouth to Winsdale

The City has completed preliminary survey and design work and met with affected property owners (a public hearing was held in January 2015). The City will bid the project in February, and work is expected to start in spring 2016. (See box at right for 2017 PMP streets.)

When all reconstruction is complete, ongoing maintenance will help keep streets in good condition. For more information about Golden Valley's PMP, contact the City at 763-593-8030. 

BEFORE



Olympia and Gettysburg looking east

AFTER



2017 PMP Streets

- Olympia St from Mendelssohn Ave N to Gettysburg Ave N
- Gettysburg Ave N from Olympia to Naper St
- Hillsboro Ave N from Olympia to Naper
- Independence Ave N from Olympia St to Earl St
- Wheeler Blvd from Mendelssohn to Earl
- Naper St from Independence to Flag Ave N

JWC Completes Water Main Replacement Project

The Joint Water Commission (JWC) has finished rehabilitating the main trunk line along County Rd 9 that supplies water from Minneapolis to the JWC Cities of Golden Valley, Crystal, and New Hope.

Twice in the last two years the pipe burst open under the streets of Robbinsdale, flooding streets, homes, and businesses and jeopardizing the water supply for homes and businesses in three JWC communities. In fall 2014, the JWC analyzed the structural integrity of the water main and found significant defects and potential risk for additional failures. The three city councils decided to replace the 50-plus-year-old concrete water main to prevent more breaks from occurring at ever increasing repair costs.

The project began in June and involved slip lining the deteriorated 36-inch concrete pipe with 24 inch PVC pipe, which is far more resistant to breaking. For more information about the project, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/watersewer/water/index.php. Starting Oct 1, water rates increased (30 cents per 1,000 gallons of water used) to help finance the \$5.3 million project.

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

Tips For Safe WINTER Driving

Be Prepared And Be Aware

Minnesotans love to embrace their hardiness regarding the challenges of winter, but no matter how tough we are, we can never go wrong heeding a few reminders about safe winter driving.

- Prepare your vehicle before winter sets in with below-freezing temperatures and mega-snow. Get a tune-up, make sure the tires and wipers are in good shape, and check that heaters and defrosters are working properly. Keep the windshield washer fluid reservoir full, and keep extra bottles of fluid in your trunk and garage.
- Before you leave, clear snow off your car completely to keep it from sliding off the roof onto your windshield or flying onto someone else's windshield while on the road. Clean headlights and tail lights, even if you think they don't need it. With the additional salt, sand, snow, and spray on the road, they may be dirtier than you think.
- If you like to warm up your vehicle, do so just long enough to take the chill off and conserve gasoline. Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed space, and never leave a running vehicle unattended.
- Monitor weather reports and alternative routes. Plan your trip to allow for extra time due to weather delays and slower speeds.
- Wear your seat belt! It's the law in all seasons.
- Be patient and drive slowly. Everything takes longer on snow-covered roads. Accelerating, stopping, turning—nothing happens as quickly as on dry pavement. Keep extra distance between you and the car in front of you to allow enough room to stop.
- Know your vehicle—front wheel drive, anti-lock brakes, stability control, etc—and know the best way to accelerate and decelerate under different roadway conditions. Do not use cruise control on slippery surfaces.
- Accelerate and decelerate gradually. Use signals and brake lights more deliberately to communicate your intentions to other drivers.
- Watch for ice on bridges, shaded areas, and low points. If possible, don't stop when driving up a hill. There's nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill on an icy road. Get some momentum going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill. Proceed downhill as slowly as possible.
- Do not travel alone when possible, and let someone know your route and arrival time.
- If you become snow-bound, stay with your vehicle. It provides temporary shelter and makes it easier for rescuers to locate you. Don't try to walk in a severe storm. It's easy to lose sight of your vehicle in blowing snow and become lost.
- Stay home if road conditions are poor. If you really don't have to go out, don't. Even if you can drive well in the snow, not everyone else can. 🌈

Resources: AAA and CarTalk.com

Please Heed Winter Parking Restrictions

Parking in Golden Valley is prohibited on public streets and alleys Nov 1–March 31 from midnight–6 am daily. Vehicles may be parked on private property in parking lots and driveways.

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

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

To request a temporary exemption from the winter parking ordinance, fill out the online winter parking waiver form at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/permits/index.php. Exemptions are not valid during snow emergencies (after a snowfall of at least two inches until the snow has stopped falling and the street has been plowed to the curb line). 🌈

UPCOMING events

WINTER TRAIL GRAND OPENING

Fri, Dec 11 | 5–9 pm
Brookview Golf Course
 Fat Bike trail demos, Fattyshack activities, and more (see page 6).

Holiday Tea

Mon, Dec 14 | 1 pm
Brookview Community Center
 Music by “The Happy Notes,” refreshments, and tea. Bring your tea cup. \$9, register by Dec 7.

GVPD “Toys for Tots” Drive through Dec 17 (see page 16)

Mailbox to the North Pole through Dec 18

Brookview Community Center
 Drop off letters at Santa Claus’ special Direct-to-the-North Pole mailbox at Brookview Community Center. Include full name and address for replies.

NEW YEAR’S EVE FAMILY EVENT AT SCHEID PARK

Thur, Dec 31 | 7–10 pm
Scheid Park, 1856 Toledo Ave N
 Bring the whole family and enjoy extended hours for skating and sledding. Open to all ages.

Brookview Picnic Shelter 2016 Reservations

Thur, Jan 14 | 8 am
Brookview Community Center
 Opening day for Golden Valley residents to reserve Brookview picnic shelters for 2016. Details at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/parks/brookview/shelters.php.

Brookview Meltdown Fat Bike Snow Race

Sat, Jan 16 | 10 am
 Fat tire bike snow race (see page 6).

WINTER FAMILY FESTIVAL

Fri, Jan 22 | 6–8 pm
Wesley Park
 Fun for all ages, with sledding, ice skating, hayrides, hot chocolate, and a bonfire with marshmallow roasting. Free!

Mary Wanderers Travel Show

Mon, Jan 25 | 1 pm
Brookview Community Center
 Preview the Golden Valley Seniors 2016 travel adventure schedule and enjoy dessert and coffee/tea as you meet the trip planner and escort and greet fellow travelers. \$4.

West Metro Home Remodeling Fair

Sun, Feb 21 | 10:30 am–3:30 pm
Eisenhower Community Center
 For event details, go to www.homeremodelingfair.com.

HRC HONORS DR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY

26th Annual MLK Holiday Breakfast

Mon, Jan 18 | 7–9 am

Minneapolis Convention Center

To honor the legacy of Dr Martin Luther King, Jr, the Golden Valley Human Rights Commission (HRC) will sponsor two tables at the 2016 MLK Holiday Breakfast presented by The General Mills Foundation and The United Negro College Fund.

The MLK Holiday Breakfast, recognized as one of the largest events of its kind in the country, is known for featuring speakers who inspire hope. This year’s keynote speaker is Massachu-

sets Governor Deval Patrick, Harvard Law graduate, who was appointed by President Clinton in 1994 as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, the nation’s top civil rights post.

Beginning Jan 4, 2016, complimentary tickets are available first-come, first-served to Golden Valley residents and students who attend school within Golden Valley. For details on the 2016 program and how to obtain tickets, visit the Golden Valley HRC webpage at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/boards/human-rights/index.php.



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Golden Valley, MN 55427

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Send donations to:
Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund
Golden Valley Police Department
7800 Golden Valley Rd
Golden Valley, MN 55427

All donations are tax-deductible.



Help Build A Stronger Community

Support The Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund

Because of the continued community outreach work by the Golden Valley Police Department, residents were able to meet and greet our officers in numerous ways this year, projects that would not have been possible without your donations to the Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund. Highlights include:

- the Bike Rodeo
- Police and Fire in the Parks, continued with rave reviews from families and capped off with festivities at Dover Hills Apartments, where kids were treated to ice cream
- 90 block parties during Night to Unite, with our police making the rounds to the parties (these get-togethers also helped haul in more than 3,000 pounds of food for PRISM)
- multi-housing managers training and networking

I am happy to say that despite today's challenging national dialogue about police training and tactics, Golden Valley residents continue to support their police department and the employees continue to be proud and honored to serve us.

Your tax-deductible contribution will go a long way in helping carry on these traditions of community service.

Nancy Azzam, President, Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund



GVPD's Collection In 21st Year

For 21 years the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) has spearheaded a Toys for Tots donation effort in collaboration with regional law enforcement agencies. Toys and gifts are collected at the GVPD, and on the last collection day, police from as many as 20 departments load their cruisers with donated gifts and meet at the GVPD. Then, lights blazing and sirens blaring, they parade to the KARE 11 Toys for Tots drop-off site in time for the 5 pm news program. This year a small portion of toys will be distributed to local disadvantaged children.

If you want to help, bring new, unwrapped toys to the GVPD at 7800 Golden Valley Road (open 24 hours a day) through Dec 17 at 3 pm. Don't forget gifts for older kids and teens. For more information, contact Lt Steve Johnson at 763-512-2503. 

WATCH THE TOYS FOR TOTS PARADE
Dec 17 | 4:30 pm
The route starts at the GVPD (7800 Golden Valley Rd) and follows Golden Valley Rd to Boone Ave/General Mills Blvd to the KARE 11 parking lot.



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.

