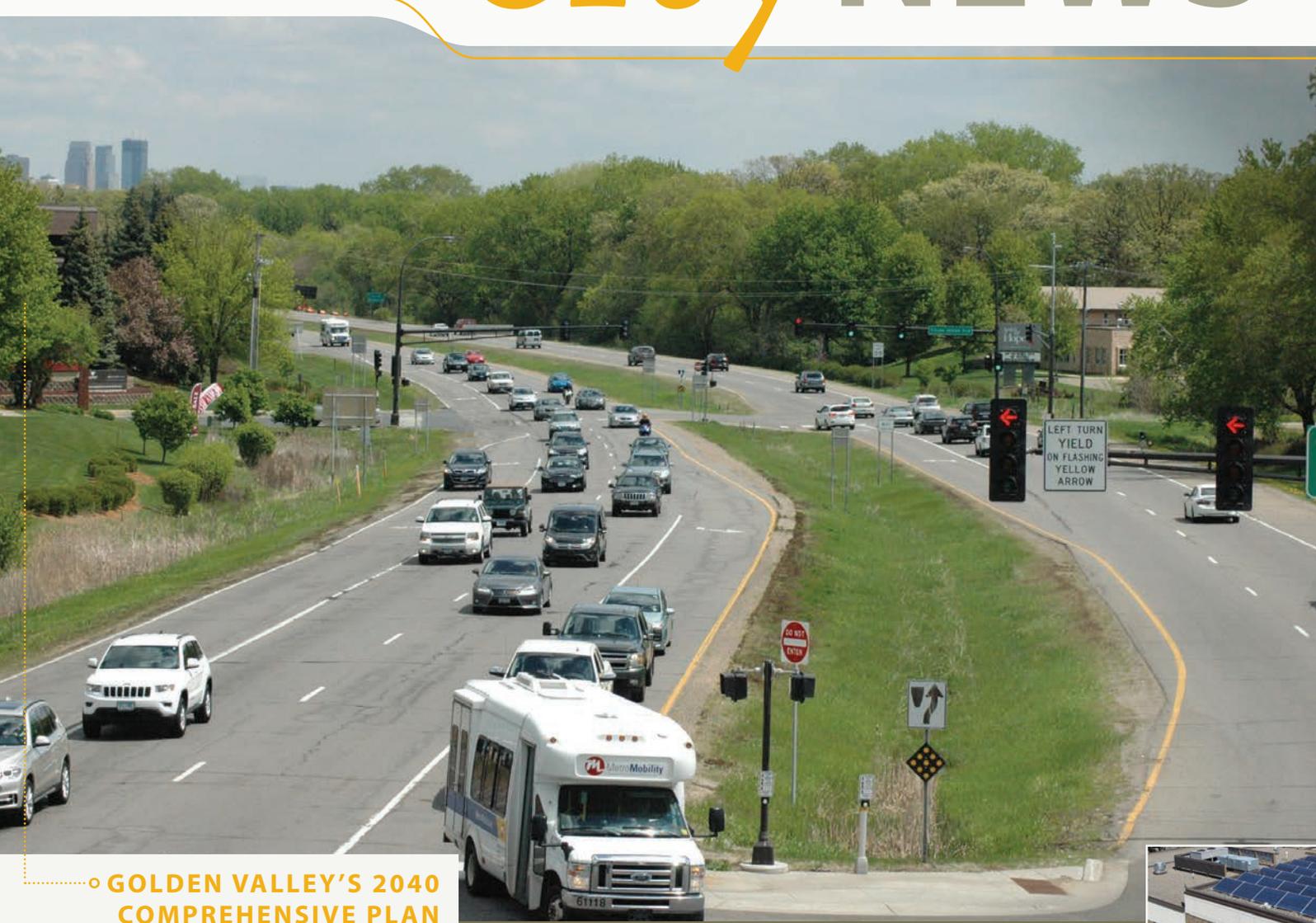




cityNEWS



GOLDEN VALLEY'S 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Diversifying Golden Valley's transportation options is a major goal of the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

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PHOTO BY ROB KUENY, COMMUNICATIONS INTERN

THE NO. 1 DEFENSE AGAINST CRIME IS YOU

Join Neighborhood Watch, or start one of your own.

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City Ended 2016 In Positive Financial Position

When the City wrapped up its 2016 financial year, it had more reserves than the amount required by its General Fund reserve policy. This policy states that the City's fund balance, or reserves, should be at 60 percent of the next year's budgeted expenditures. When this happens, it's called "positive performance."

The City maintains a balanced budget, and positive performance happens when revenues exceed expenditures. For example, in 2016, building permit revenue came in higher than budgeted. Also, some annual staff fluctuations allowed the City to realize savings on the expenditure side.

City Council allocated 2016's positive performance to the Park Improvement and Storm Sewer Utility Funds. Paying for basic City infrastructure like this helps lessen the impact on future tax levies.

General Fund Reserve Policy

Why does the City strive to maintain a reserve?

The primary purpose of a reserve fund is to meet annual cash flow needs for operations as well as act as an emergency fund should there be a major incident. Cities that meet designated reserve levels earn interest on the reserve monies and can eliminate short-term borrowing and reduce insurance premiums.

Sound long-term financial planning tries to avoid "quick-fix" strategies. Such planning requires that cities maintain a reserve level in the range of 55–70 percent of budgeted expenditures. Reserves at this level provide the benefits of meeting cash flow, higher interest earnings, lower interest costs, higher bond ratings, and lower insurance costs. For example:

- The City does not receive the first dollar of the current year's tax levy until the county sends the first half-year settlement in

July. It receives the second half in December. Since the City has to meet expenditures beginning January 1, the reserve fund provides interim financing until the tax levy is received. Without a reserve, the City would have to borrow money to provide the interim financing.

- The estimated reserve for 12/31/16 equals approximately 60 percent of the City's budgeted expenditures, one of the main reasons Golden Valley has a high bond rating ("Aa1" from Moody's Investor's Services) available to a city its size. A bond rating measures the risk associated with a city's debt. Investors are willing to accept a lower interest rate on the city's bonds because of the low risk evidenced by the high bond rating. It's very likely that eliminating or even significantly reducing the reserve would lead to a reduced bond rating, which would result in increased interest cost on Golden Valley's future bond issues.
- A significant reserve allows Golden Valley to go without umbrella liability insurance. This type of insurance covers liability claims and/or judgments over and above the liability limits on the City's basic coverage, which saves the City approximately \$60,000 a year.

All City financial documents are available at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/budget. If you have questions about any of these documents, contact the Finance Director Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010. 



Summer Intern Volunteers His Communications Skills

Golden Valley native Robert Kueny is spending his summer doing an unpaid communications internship for the City of Golden Valley, where he will be writing and photographing for City publications and working on special projects. Kueny is entering his senior year at Minnesota State University–Mankato, where he's majoring in mass media. A Hopkins High School graduate, Kueny has hopes of working in the communications field after graduation in spring 2018.

Run The Valley Raises \$18,490

428 People Participated

The 23rd annual *Run The Valley* 5/10K Run and 5K Walk April 29 raised \$18,490 for the Golden Valley Human Services Fund (GVHSF), which allocates funds to local human service organizations that benefit the community.

Of the 428 participants, 190 ran the 5K race, 114 ran the 10K race, 74 did the 5K walk, 26 ran the fun run for kids, and 24 ran the 12U run.

Overall winners of the 10K were Mark Remme in the male category and Sara Woeste in the female category, both of Golden Valley. Overall winners of the 5K were Sam Theisen of Golden Valley in the male category and Ashley Nelson of St Louis Park in the female category.

Corporate sponsors were Lund's & Byerly's—Golden Valley, Optum—Golden Valley, and City of Golden Valley (gold); Park Nicollet Clinic and Legacy Rehabilitation Group (silver); and Accord Financial Strategies, Anytime Fitness—Crystal & New Hope, Bassett Creek Dental, BNC National Bank, CCX Media, City of Golden Valley, Gary Metchnek Edina Realty, Liberty Carton Company (LDI), Oak Grove Church, Relative Strength, Snap Fitness, TruStone Financial—Golden Valley, Voyer Chiropractor, and weRow (bronze). Water stops and post-race snacks were provided by Al's Coffee, Finken Water Solutions, General Mills Yoplait USA, Go Health Chiropractic, Old Fashioned Donut Shoppe, Perkins Family Restaurant—Hwy 55, Perkins Family Restaurant—I-394, and Valley Pastries. 



PHOTOS BY STANN WALDHAUSER

2017 *Run The Valley* participants



Golf Or Bowl July 14 To Benefit Local Charities

The Golden Valley Human Services Fund (GVHSF) hosts two summer events each year to benefit local charities, and it distributes 100 percent of funds raised to causes directly serving the Golden Valley community. This year's Golden Valley Golf Classic and Lawn Bowling Classic will be held Friday, July 14, at Brookview Golf Course and Lawn Bowling Rinks.



GOLF CLASSIC.

The tournament begins with an 8 am shotgun start. Foursomes can register for \$300 (includes fees, cart, continental breakfast, lunch buffet, and a chance to win prizes).



LAWN BOWLING CLASSIC.

The tournament begins at 10 am. Teams of four can register for \$80 (includes fees, lunch buffet, non-alcoholic beverages, snacks, and a chance to win prizes).

SUPPORT THE CAUSE.

Prefer the role of booster? You can support the GVHSF and these events as a sponsor (various levels available). Contributions of cash, merchandise, and in-kind items or gift certificates are welcome for contests, prizes, and drawings.

The 2016 events drew 32 golfers and 20 lawn bowlers who, with corporate and individual sponsors, helped the GVHSF raise \$4,880 (net) for local human service organizations.

For more information or to volunteer the day of the event, visit www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/golfclassic or contact staff liaison Brian Erickson at 763-512-2366 or berickson@goldenvalleymn.gov. 

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Get Rid Of Toxic Items June 9 and 10

Some household items may not be as innocuous as they seem. Some may even be too toxic to put in the trash. As you clean your home this spring, be mindful of what you toss. The National Waste & Recycling Association recommends the following safe and environmentally friendly ways to clear out your junk.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW)—If you don't know anyone who can use your leftovers, take them to a HHW disposal site. Such items include fertilizers, pesticides, weed killers, and pool chemicals; household chemicals (nail polish remover, bleach, oven cleaners, drain cleaners, metal polishes, etc); energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), which contain mercury; and paint thinners, varnishes, and oil-based paints. Latex paint can be dried out and put in the trash—but the cans can be recycled.

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

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

EXTRA CARE REQUIRED—Medical waste, like sharps (needles, syringes, lancets), medicines, and pharmaceuticals require special care. Place medical waste in approved containers and dispose according to local guidelines. Never flush medicines down toilets or drains, as wastewater facilities cannot filter them and they may impact aquatic life.

Bring medications to the Golden Valley Police Department and place them in the medicine disposal drop box in the lobby.

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

HHW DISPOSAL OPTIONS—Hennepin County organizes collection events throughout the year (see box below), and two permanent drop-off sites (8100 Jefferson Hwy, Brooklyn Park and 1400 W 96th St, Bloomington) accept HHW, including electronics, year-round. For more information, call 612-348-3777 or visit www.hennepin.us/dropoffs.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF

June 9–10, 9 am–4 pm

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

Accepted Materials (free of charge)

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

- Adhesives
- Aerosol cans
- Auto/fuel wastes (no motor oil or filters)
- Batteries (household and vehicle)
- Drain cleaners
- Driveway sealer
- Fluorescent and HID lamps (limit 25)
- Gas cylinders under 40 lbs
- Mercury-containing items
- Paint, paint thinners, stains, solvents
- Pesticides
- Preservatives
- Pool/photographic/hobby chemicals
- Rechargeable products

Not Accepted

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

Golden Valley Recycles

GRAY Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Independence Day	Sat, July 8
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 25
New Year's	Sat, Jan 6, 2018

BLUE Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Labor Day	Sat, Sept 9
Christmas	Sat, Dec 30

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.



To sign up to receive emailed recycling updates and reminders, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe.

The Golden Valley Recycling Program is partially funded by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners.

SOLAR ARRAYS PROVIDE ENERGY

Solar power is considered one of the cleanest forms of energy production, with no associated fuel costs, air emissions, or waste, and it takes very little water to manufacture. The City of Golden Valley has begun powering some of its buildings with solar and is taking steps to make it more accessible.

To increase savings and power more operations through renewable energy, in 2015 the City installed two solar arrays on the roofs of the Park Maintenance and Public Safety buildings. This summer it will install two additional solar arrays on the Street Maintenance and Utilities Maintenance rooftops.

The City entered this venture at no cost through a power-purchase agreement, where third-party investors own the arrays, Sundial Solar maintains them, and the City provides the rooftop space. Golden Valley gets a credit on its energy bills when the arrays on the buildings produce more energy than the buildings need. In 2016 the solar arrays produced 86,300 kWh of electricity, enough to power nine average homes in one year, according to the EPA. This saved the City \$3,499 in electric costs.

In addition, the electricity produced by these two solar arrays in 2016 diverted 60.6 metric tons of carbon dioxide that would have otherwise been released into the atmosphere, says Hannah Garry, Minnesota GreenCorps member.

Not only does increasing solar energy production help meet the State's goal of deriving 25 percent of its electricity from renewable energy resources by 2025, Garry says, it also increases Golden Valley's resilience to energy supply and price shocks by developing an energy source that is generated and used locally.

What You Can Do

According to the Minnesota Department of Commerce, the typical single family home in Minnesota gets more than enough sunlight to meet its year-round energy needs. If you're interested



in powering more of your energy needs with solar, check out the following resources:

- Xcel Energy offers options for customers who want to get electricity from local solar energy sources but cannot or do not want to install their own panels. Learn more at www.xcelenergy.com.
- The Department of Commerce has a free online Solar App to assess your property's solar potential and estimate the time to recover costs depending on power output, electricity consumption, and federal and state incentives. Go to <https://solarapp.gisdata.mn.gov/solarapp/>.
- When you're ready to install solar panels, fill out and submit a City building permit application and call 763-593-8090 to schedule appropriate inspections.

For more information on Golden Valley's solar initiatives, contact Tom Hoffman at 763-593-8044. 🌞

Hearing Set For Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan

Every year the City of Golden Valley is required to report on how it is managing storm water discharge to reduce sediment and pollution loading in receiving waters. The process is called the Phase II National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit, and it requires significant planning by the City, including a public meeting with the City Council (this year set for June 20 at 6:30 pm).

All communities with more than 10,000 people are federally mandated to get the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

permit. The June 20 City Council meeting will give the public a chance to share comments on the plan. All written comments should be received no later than 4:30 pm the day of the meeting.

Forward comments to City of Golden Valley, Attn: Thomas Hoffman, 7800 Golden Valley Rd, Golden Valley, MN 55427. A copy of the plan is available at the Physical Development Department in City Hall. For information, contact Hoffman at 763-593-8044. 🌿

RECREATION Highlights

See complete list of activities in the Summer Recreation Activities catalog or at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation.

Youth

American Red Cross Babysitting Training (ages 11–15)—Sat, June 24, 8 am–6 pm, \$105.

Summer Playground Adventure (ages 7–12)—M–Th, June 12–Aug 3 (no program July 3–6), 1–4 pm. Hampshire, Lions, Scheid, or Wesley Parks, \$14.

Adult

Open Pickleball—Tuesdays, 9–11 am, Medley Park. Bring your paddles and play pickleball with other enthusiasts.

Seniors

Senior Lawn Bowling League—Wednesdays, June 7–July 26, 10–11:30 am, Brookview. Register by June 5 individually or as a team of 4–8 players. League fee \$5, plus \$3/week.

Coffee Talk—Wednesdays, 9:45–11:15 am, Brookview. June 28: “Help At Your Door (formerly Store To Door and Second Harvest Heartland);” July 26: “Do’s and Don’ts of Recycling.” Call 763-512-2345 to register. Fee: \$2.

Money Matters—Thursdays, 10–11:15 am, Brookview. June 15: “How To Protect Yourself Financially From Your Children,” July 20: “Demographics And Development in Golden Valley.” FREE!

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



Drama Club Offers Youth Creative Leadership

It’s 40 minutes to show time, 40 minutes until 13 Golden Valley Drama Club members put on their first and only performance of the play they’ve been working on for the last two months.

The director flits here and there, answering her cast’s questions, giving notes, or standing attentively in the wings during dress rehearsal. She has a dozen adrenaline-filled kids to account for. It’s a high-pressure moment, but she keeps a cool head, which is all the more impressive considering that, at 10 years old, she’s younger than some of her actors.

About a year earlier, Mackenzie Ernst, a four-year Drama Club veteran, began writing a script titled “Much Better Than Salted Fish.” When she brought it to Eric David Olson, Drama Club instructor and Golden Valley theater director, not only did he want to produce it, he suggested that Mackenzie direct.

Never before in Drama Club history has a kid so young tackled sole directing duty, Olson says, but when a learning opportunity like this presents itself, you can’t turn it down. It’s what Drama Club is all about.

“I love watching the little ones’ creative personalities come to life and all the imagination and energy they bring to the class,” Olson says. “Watching Mackenzie take her story, work on it tirelessly, and have the foresight, patience, and dedication to direct, was beyond words.”

The Big Day

It’s 20 minutes to show time. Dress rehearsal wraps up just as audience members begin to fill the 60 seats inside the Meadowbrook Elementary School cafeteria.

This is the capstone project of the Drama Club’s winter season. The Club’s mission is to build young people’s confidence in public speaking, performing, and production.

“It’s really fun,” says Mackenzie, who also acts in her play as a dragon trainer. “You get to meet a lot of people, and overall it’s just a great experience that will help you realize what you might want to do in the future.”

When it’s time to debut the show, the cast’s enthusiasm is palpable. The play, about two kingdoms, one rich, one poor, struggling to share resources with each other, culminates in a race between dragons. Two kids in dragon costumes crawl across the stage as the rest of the cast stand on the sidelines, shouting and cheering. It’s hard to tell if they’re acting. Their joy shines through. Mackenzie beams.

Kids Ages 7–14 Can Be A Part Of Summer Drama Club

The summer session of Drama Club, a Golden Valley Parks and Recreation program for ages 7–14, begins June 13. There are four sessions per year. Each session meets twice a week for two months. To register, visit www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation/youth/drama-performance.php.

The No. 1 Defense Against Crime Is You

Join A Neighborhood Watch Or Start One Of Your Own

Golden Valley Police Sgt Jeff Johnson cannot over-stress the importance of community engagement when it comes to fighting crime. And one of the most effective ways for residents to get involved, he says, is to join a Neighborhood Watch program or start one of their own.

“The community is our eyes and ears,” Johnson says. “Calls from the public are the majority of what we respond to.”

A Neighborhood Watch program is worth its weight in gold, he says. It keeps neighbors up to date on crime trends and prevention methods, and it provides them with refreshers on who does and doesn't live in their neighborhood, which goes a long way when it comes to spotting fishy behavior.

But there's a lot of area in Golden Valley to cover, and not all neighborhoods have a program. For Neighborhood Watch to continue to grow and benefit the community, help from residents is needed.

Block Captains Needed

Right now, there are about 100 Neighborhood Watch block captains, but ideally there should be at least 50 more, Johnson says.

Block captains are responsible for keeping up-to-date block maps, distributing meeting information, encouraging attendance, and organizing the annual Minnesota's Night To Unite



celebration and other social gatherings. The main goal of these occasional meetings or parties is to give their neighbors a chance to get to know one another and share crime prevention tips and information. If desired, block captains can schedule business meetings with the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD).

To express your interest in being a block captain or to learn more, send your contact information to Jeff Johnson (jjohnson@goldenvalleymn.gov or 763-512-2504). He will get back to you with everything you need to know to get your own Neighborhood Watch program started.

The next block captain and block captain recruitment meeting will be June 6, 7 pm, at the Golden Valley Public Safety Building, 7700 Golden Valley Rd.

Neighborhood Watch Community Meetings

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

The next meeting will be Oct 3, 7 pm, at the Golden Valley Public Safety Building, 7700 Golden Valley Rd. 📍



golden valley
reads

2017 Book Is “The Latehomecomer,” by Kao Kalia Yang

This year's book selection for the second annual Golden Valley Reads program is “The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir,” by award-winning Hmong-American writer Kao Kalia Yang.

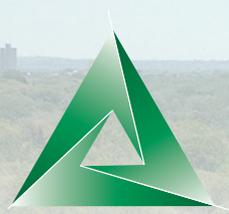
“The Latehomecomer” is the only book to have garnered two Minnesota book awards in one year, winning Creative Nonfiction Writing and Readers' Choice. It is a story of a refugee family and a tribute to the woman who kept them together.

Golden Valley Reads, a joint program between the City and the Golden Valley Library, works like a community-wide book club, says Brian Erickson, Parks and Recreation supervisor.

People don't have to sign up for the program, he says. They just need to get the book, which they can find at the Golden Valley Library both in hard copy or audiobook form, or at another Hennepin County Library, and read it sometime before the community discussion with the author Sept 18.

“I hope this program gets more people reading,” Erickson says. “It was a huge success last year. We had a packed house at the discussion. And this year's book is very interesting and anybody can read it.”

The discussion and author book signing will be Mon, Sept 18, 6:30pm, at the Perpich Center for Arts Education. 📍



2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

As the 2040 Comprehensive Plan takes shape, *CityNews* will spotlight its sections in a six-part series. Next up is Transportation.

TRANSPORTATION

Diversifying Golden Valley's transportation options is a major goal of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, says Jason Zimmerman, City planning manager.

"We're looking at shifting away from such an exclusive automobile focus toward accommodating more bicyclists, pedestrians, and people who want to take transit," Zimmerman says.

The City will also shift its focus from road reconstruction to maintenance and infrastructure projects.

Metro Transit

Public feedback meetings have revealed residents want more access to transit in Golden Valley, Zimmerman says.

An increase in the number of bus routes correlates with an increase in developments and population densities.

"Whether or not we get a new bus stop is up to Metro Transit, but they do pay attention to when we approve new developments," Zimmerman says. "As we focus on our downtown areas, we're reaching out to Metro Transit, and there will probably be a tipping point when there's enough riders there to support a new bus route."

Golden Valley is also working closely with other municipalities to plan new light rail stations in town as part of the METRO Blue Line Extension, but state and federal budgeting concerns must be cleared up before that project can move forward. Check future *CityNews* publications for updates on the METRO Blue Line project.

Preservation Vs Reconstruction

By 2021, Golden Valley will have invested roughly \$100 million in street reconstruction as part of its 24-year-long Pavement Management Program. The City will spend the next 50 to 70 years working to preserve its investment, shifting focus from reconstruction to street maintenance and repair, says Jeff Oliver, City engineer.

2040 Comp Plan Conversations

Share your ideas about the 2040 Comp Plan at informal conversation sessions before Planning Commission meetings. Conversations run from 6-6:30 pm, followed by presentations and discussion among Commissioners until the formal Planning Commission meeting starts at 7:30 pm. Sign up for updates and meeting reminders at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe.

- June 12: Water Resources
- July 10: Transportation
- Aug 7: Parks and Nature Areas
- Sept 11: Economic Competitiveness

Bike And Pedestrian Improvements

Because bicycling and walking are becoming increasingly popular, the City Council has made it a priority to create a bicycle and pedestrian plan to be included in the overall Comprehensive Plan. No previous Comprehensive Plan has had a section devoted to bicycles, says Emily Goellner, associate planner.

Golden Valley and other local agencies will use the bike plan to guide improvements to the local bicycle and pedestrian network, which may include adding some new bike lanes, improving intersections, and increasing overall connectivity of trails. These improvements will help encourage healthier lifestyles and connect a growing number of people interested in biking and walking to key destinations in the community (eg, light rail stations, schools, major employers, shopping, Luce Line Regional Trail, the new Brookview, etc).

The plan will also guide investment decisions to address gaps in the network and enhance existing facilities, explore funding sources, and include recommendations for additional education and promotion. The final plan will be incorporated into the Transportation Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan.

For updates about the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan process, go to bit.ly/GV-2040CompPlan.

Resident Feedback Helps Set Priorities

The City is still in the feedback and brainstorming phase of the Comprehensive Plan process. City staff is using results from recent surveys and public input meetings and will continue to take more feedback as the process moves forward. Below are some of the areas in which more feedback is invited.



Multi-Modal Systems

A major focus in the 2040 Comp Plan is finding ways to bridge gaps in transportation connectivity for all forms of travel while maintaining the existing transportation system by making scheduled improvements to replace worn or obsolete components.

Traffic Flow And Safety

The City continually looks for ways to improve traffic flow and reduce automobile traffic overall. Staff works to identify system deficiencies by examining trend data, including safety (crashes), forecast traffic volumes (capacity), and accessibility (mobility).



Healthy And Environmentally Sound Travel

Improving bike and pedestrian connectivity not only reduces traffic congestion, it also encourages healthy, environmentally friendly lifestyles by easing alternative modes of transportation and ensuring that local and regional destinations are accessible by biking and walking.

Year-Round And All-Accessible

The City wants to design routes and facilities that are comfortable for users of all ages and abilities. It also wants to encourage year-round walking and biking by ensuring that winter maintenance of bicycle and pedestrian facilities is adequately addressed.



More Transit

Continually assessing the changing transit needs of area residents, visitors, and new development is essential to delivering optimal transit facilities and services. The City will continue to work closely with Metro Transit, MnDOT, and other municipalities to improve transit access in Golden Valley.

Visual Considerations

Roadways and trails take up a lot of area, so City officials want to make sure they look as good as they can. Natural landscaping, public art projects, and other aesthetic treatments in public rights-of-way will be considered in the 2040 Comp Plan.



Share Your Ideas • Help shape Golden Valley's future by participating in the 2040 Comp Plan process.

- Attend an upcoming **Comp Plan Conversation** session (see schedule on pg 8).
- Complete **online questionnaires** at bit.ly/GV2040CompPlan.
- Use **Comp Plan In A Box** to host your own input meeting. This self-guided tool helps groups review Comp Plan information, gather ideas, and share results with the City. Call Planning at 763-593-8095 to reserve one.
- Sign up for **2040 Comp Plan updates** at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe.



GVPD Tests Body Cams

The Golden Valley Police Department GVPD is in the process of testing two different types of body cameras to see what might be the best fit. Once GVPD staff decides which camera works best, all officers could be equipped with body cams as early as this fall.

Body camera video can be helpful for police as court case evidence, but it also improves transparency, says Police Chief Jason Sturgis.

“The cameras capture the behavior of the suspect we’re dealing with and the actions of the police officer,” Sturgis says. “There’s also a desire on the part of the public to see what police do.”

The technology has gotten good enough and prices (while still high) have lowered enough to make body cameras a feasible option, which is one reason many cities have already started using them or are currently looking into it, Sturgis says.

Golden Valley has used squad car video for several years, he adds. The video has been immensely helpful for the department, and ideally the squad car camera systems would be compatible

with the body cam technology. This is one of multiple factors the department is considering as it evaluates camera options.

The GVPD will try out two camera options for six weeks each on six officers and will analyze:

- quality of video
- ease of attachment, activation, and video download
- battery life
- hardware memory
- software accessibility
- system compatibility

There is no charge to test the cameras.

Sturgis predicts that eventually body cams will become as ubiquitous as squad car dash cams. Currently, the main barrier is cost. Implementing department-wide body cameras for a municipality the size of Golden Valley can cost \$200,000 or more, so it’s important that cities pick the camera that’s right for them. 🌟



Public Safety Open House

Wed, June 21, 6–8 pm
Police Department & Fire Station 1

The annual Public Safety Open House features tours, demonstrations, information, T-shirt give-aways, and fun. Set at the Police Department and Fire Station 1, the event provides an opportunity for residents to meet the men and women that help keep them safe. Rhode Island Ave will be closed just east of the Fire Station, providing a street fair atmosphere. For more information, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/openhouse/index.php.



Public Safety In The Parks

Golden Valley police and firefighters visit local parks during the summer as a way to make connections with kids and parents. This weekly summer tradition helps strengthen relationships and build community. Dates and locations for 2017 are:

- **June 22:** Gearty Park, 11 am
- **June 29:** Wesley Park, 2:30 pm
- **July 13:** Hampshire Park, 2:30 pm
- **July 20:** Lions Park, 2:30 pm
- **July 27:** Medley Park, 11 am
- **Aug 3:** Scheid Park, 2:30 pm

Firefighting Could Be Your Calling

Is It Right For You? Find Out At Our Recruitment Meeting Or Expo.

On-call firefighting isn't your average part-time job. For most people, it's a calling, says Stephen Baker, fire battalion chief.

"It's not a short-term or seasonal commitment," Baker says. "It's a paid job, but people certainly don't do it for the money. It's about the opportunity to help others, to give back to the community."

If you're interested and live or work within six minutes of a Golden Valley fire station but don't know for sure if it's the right job for you, attend the upcoming recruitment expo or meeting to find out more.

One of the main reasons for holding events is that doubts and assumptions can lead people astray, Baker says.

"There are certain myths about what the perfect firefighter looks like," he says. "Attending these meetings requires no commitment. It just gives us a chance to be myth busters."

Golden Valley offers multiple opportunities (see boxes below) to learn more about what it takes to be a paid, on-call firefighter.

At the Recruitment Expo, attendees get to try on gear, climb our ladder truck (if you wish), cut a car apart, see all kinds of fire equipment, talk with firefighters about how they make it work in their lives, and just learn what it means to become a firefighter.

To register for the Expo, go to www.goldenvalleyfire.com or email Baker at sbaker@goldenvalleymn.gov.

To attend the Expo, you must be 18 or older and live or work within six minutes of a fire station (or plan to).

Primary Duties Of A Paid On-Call Firefighter

Become a member of an elite group of individuals who are willing to risk their lives to help their community by:

- responding to fire calls and putting out fires
- performing rescues, CPR, and first aid
- extricating trapped people from vehicles and buildings
- saving lives
- driving fire engines and operating rescue equipment
- educating the public about fire safety and prevention
- surveying commercial buildings looking for fire safety compliance and hazards
- gaining valuable skills and confidence in firefighting techniques while participating in live burn demonstrations, drills, and trainings on a regular basis
- building a strong connection with your community through engagements and education

Application deadline is June 29. For more details, visit www.goldenvalleyfire.com or contact Baker at 763-593-3977. 

Firefighter Recruitment Expo

Thur, June 8, 6–10 pm
Fire Station 1
7700 Golden Valley Rd

Public Safety Open House

Wed, June 21, 6–8 pm
City Hall Campus
7800 Golden Valley Rd

Recruitment Meeting

Thur, June 22, 9:30 am & 6:30 pm
Fire Station 1
7700 Golden Valley Rd

Portion Of 10th Ave Closed

Culvert Replacement Project Scheduled To Start Early Summer

A project to replace the aging metal culverts that carry Bassett Creek under 10th Ave and the Union Pacific Railroad tracks has been rescheduled from late fall to this summer because of rapidly increasing deterioration.

On May 2, the City closed 10th Ave N between Winnetka Ave and Rhode Island Ave N due to concerns about the condition of the culverts. The roadway will remain closed until after the culverts are replaced this summer. Please follow signs for detours and check the City website for updates.

The Problem

The two arch culverts (114-inch span) and one round culvert (72-inch diameter), classified as bridges because of their size, are inspected annually. The City has been communicating with Union Pacific since 2008 regarding inspection results and the potential impacts of culvert failure, which include flooding and train derailment. City staff also considered emergency response plans in the event of a culvert collapse to address flooding or spills from a train derailment.

The Project

Last year the City began preparing concepts and alternatives for culvert replacement as a cooperative project with Union Pacific. The project would involve digging up 10th Ave (between the Golden Valley Library and the end of Rhode Island Ave N), the Luce Line Trail, and the railroad track to replace the culverts with two concrete box culverts. Work will take two to three months to complete. In preparation, the City has been removing trees and meeting with utility companies regarding construction conflicts in the area.

Pending City Council approval of the cooperative agreement and MnDOT approval of the project plans, work is expected to be bid in early summer and construction to begin in late summer. To help fund the project, the City received a State Aid bridge bonding grant.

Questions? Contact Physical Development at 763-593-8030.



Douglas Dr Project On Schedule

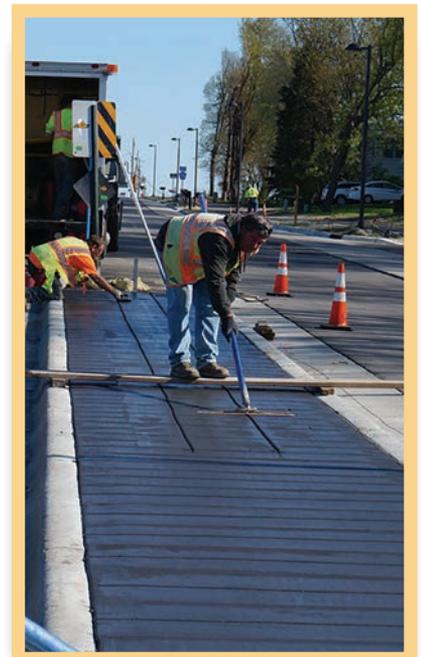
The Douglas Dr (County Rd 102) reconstruction project is currently on schedule. Weather permitting, major activities on the project are set to be complete by the end of fall.

Along eastbound lanes of Duluth St (County Rd 66), storm sewer work is wrapping up and crews are preparing the soil to properly support the new roadway. They will then layer sand and gravel from recycled pavement as the base, pour new curbs and sidewalks, and place the final layer of pavement. Crews will finish by installing medians and striping road lines. All major Duluth St work is anticipated to be complete early to mid-June.

Between Duluth St and Golden Valley Rd, underground utility work (such as storm sewer and water main installations) will lead construction efforts for the next month. Roadway rebuilding, curbs, and paving of new sidewalks and trails will follow. This area is anticipated to be complete by mid-July.

Work at Golden Valley Rd will begin in June. This includes roundabout construction as well as sidewalk and trail improvements. Construction is expected to last into fall.

Additional updates, including the latest information on schedules, detour routes, and construction activities, are available at www.hennepin.us/douglasdrive. Question? Call 612-543-3485 or email douglasdrive@hennepin.us.



Crews groove the concrete in the new medians on Douglas Dr.



In-House Mill And Overlay Saves City Time And Money

The City will be repaving stretches of Cloverleaf Dr this summer in a process known as mill and overlay.

Mill and overlay is a construction term used to describe the removal of a street's top layer of pavement and then repaving. It's not as comprehensive or expensive as a total reconstruction, but it can extend the life of a street by many years.

Unlike most cities, Golden Valley completes some of its mill and overlay work in-house, says Tim Kieffer, street maintenance supervisor. This costs the City around a third less than contracting the work to a third party.

Many cities don't perform this work in-house because the up-front cost for the necessary equipment can be too high. This is why Golden Valley cooperates with other municipalities and organizations to share equipment.

Another reason some cities don't perform their own mill and overlay work is because their streets need more than just a surface-level rehabilitation.

Mill and overlay is only possible when the road has a solid base foundation. Because Golden Valley has put so much effort toward reconstructing its streets over the last 20 years, most of them now have a highly durable core, making it more feasible for in-house crews to perform surface maintenance projects. This saves both money and time, Kieffer says, and it's an example of the benefits of long-term planning.

This is the ninth year Golden Valley has done its own mill and overlay work. Crews repave about a mile of low-traffic streets per year. 🌿

Now's The Time To Weed Garlic Mustard

Spring is a great time to get out and pull some troublesome garlic mustard.

Garlic mustard, an invasive plant species that can be found throughout Golden Valley, grows in a way that crowds out native wildflowers, tree seedlings, and woodland plants, causing a chain reaction that threatens the very ecosystem it inhabits.

It can totally dominate a woodland within five to seven years. At this time of year, and with smaller infestations in your yard, the best approach is to pull them up by the roots.

Garlic mustard is an aggressive biennial herbaceous (or herb) plant, which means it does not flower until its second year and then it dies. This life cycle is why garlic mustard can be managed by pulling up the second year plants before they flower and produce seeds. Even though it is a prolific seed producer, garlic mustard can be managed by preventing seed production of plants over several years. Managing this species takes a strong commitment once it becomes established.

To remove garlic mustard on your property, you will need gardening gloves, a small trowel, and bags to place the plants in.

Because flowering garlic mustard can spread seeds even after its been pulled up by the roots, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) asks that you bag the plants as you weed them. Bagged plants should be disposed of by burning, burying deeply in an area that will not be disturbed, or landfilling, according to the MDA. (Please, do not burn plastic bags.) Let garlic mustard collected in paper bags dry thoroughly before burning.

If you would like to remove garlic mustard on City property, fill out a volunteer form (available on the City's website) and email it to the assistant City forester at tteynor@goldenvalleymn.gov. 🌿





Street Or Sidewalk? A Biker's Conundrum

Bicyclists often face a choice between sharing the road with busy and dangerous traffic or riding on the sidewalk. Contrary to popular belief, it's legal to ride a bicycle on most sidewalks. The exception is riding on sidewalks within some business districts.

A bike rider on a sidewalk outside a business district assumes the same rights and duties as a pedestrian, including the right-of-way in a street crosswalk. But a biker in the street is considered a vehicle and must comply with traffic laws.

Experienced bikers, who ride faster and farther than casual bikers, generally opt for the street so they can flow with traffic past driveways and side streets. This is perfectly legal as long as they obey all traffic laws.

Young, inexperienced bike riders generally choose the sidewalk (or their parents choose it for them). Bikers using sidewalks must remember to yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian. This is both common sense and state law. A bicycle can inflict injury to a person just as seriously as a motor vehicle.

If you're thinking of biking on the sidewalk in Golden Valley, consider the following:

- Is it a business district with doors swinging open onto the sidewalk and people frequently walking in and out of buildings with little visibility? Walk your bike on the sidewalks in these areas or stay on the road or in the parking lot.
- Are there a number of pedestrians you will have to avoid?
- Is there room to pass a pedestrian or other bike rider?

- Are there frequent signs, street furniture, pavement hazards, overhanging tree limbs, or shrubs to avoid?
- Will you be traveling at higher speeds past pedestrians?

Before you choose to ride in the street, consider:

- Is there a shoulder or area near the curb free from motor vehicle use?
- Is there a bike lane?
- If in a lane of traffic, is the volume low enough so you are easily seen and avoided?
- Do you have to weave around parked vehicles and into a traffic lane?

Regardless of your choice or your rights by law, you need to use common sense and watch out for those who don't. If you're driving, be respectful to bikers in the street and share the road. They often have good reason to be in the street rather than riding on a sidewalk. 🐝



BEE Aware: National Pollinator Week Is In June

The US Dept of Agriculture and the US Dept of the Interior have declared June 19–27, 2017 as National Pollinator Week.

Evidence has shown that insect pollinators, such as bees, have been disappearing rapidly, while more than one third of all plants or plant-based foods eaten by humans are dependent on insects for pollination. The loss of pollinators can be linked to many different things, like loss of habitat, diseases, and pesticides.

What can you do to protect pollinators?

- **Plant A Pollinator Garden.** Use a variety of native flowers with a variety of colors and shapes. This will give a diverse pollen and nectar source for your pollinators. If you want to transform a majority of your lawn from turf grass to native

plants, you'll need to apply for a Native Vegetation Permit from the City. Go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/yards/native.php.

- **Limit Pesticide Use.** Pesticides used on your lawn or garden could affect more than just the targeted pest. Use natural predators, such as amphibians, birds, and spiders, to get rid of any unwanted pests. If a pesticide must be used, apply the lowest effective amount in the evening, when bees are not foraging.

For more information about what you can do for pollinators in your garden, visit www.mda.state.mn.us/protecting/bmps.aspx. 🐝



UPCOMING events

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Mondays, 7 pm, starting June 5
Brookview Park (see page 16)

Neighborhood Watch Block Captain Meeting

Tue, June 6 | 7 pm
Police Department Training Room
(see page 7)

Firefighter Recruitment Expo

Thur, June 8 | 6–10 pm
(see page 11)

Views Of The Valley

Photo Contest

Fri, June 9 | 4:30 pm (see page 16)

Mini US Open For Kids

Sun, June 11, Brookview Par 3
Ages 3–14 with adult. Kids play and the adults caddie! Pre-registration required. Schedule tee times starting at 11 am by calling 763-512-2345.

Puppet Wagon Shows

Mon–Thur, June 12–Aug 3
New shows weekly. See schedule at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation/youth/free-events-and-activities.php.

Water Days @ Scheid Park

1: Fri, June 16 | 12:30–2 pm
2: Fri, July 21 | 12:30–2 pm
Ages 6–14 with adult. Water slides, puppet shows, DJ, and more. Free! Details at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation/youth/special-events.php.

Market In The Valley

Opens Sun, June 18
Outdoor farmers market under the water tower. Get more information at www.marketinthevalley.org/.

Public Safety Open House

Wed, June 21 | 6–8 pm
Public Safety Building
(see pages 10–11)

Public Safety In The Parks

June 22–Aug 3 (see page 10)

Firefighter Recruitment Meeting

Thur, June 22 | 9:30 am & 6 pm
(see page 11)

Picnic & Music In The Park

Fri, June 30 | 11:15 am–noon
Brookview Park Gazebo
Details at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation/free-events-and-activities.php.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Mon, July 10 | 7 pm
Brookview Park
Enjoy music by the First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band and Sebastian Joe's ice cream. Free!

GVHSF Golf & Lawn Bowling Classic

Fri, July 14 (see page 3)

Minnesota Night To Unite

Tues, Aug 1
Get together with neighbors around the shared goal of a safe and healthy community. Details at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/nighttounite.

Penny Carnival

Fri, Aug 4 | 12:30–2 pm
Brookview Park
Details at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation/youth/special-events.php.

MOVIES IN THE PARK

- 1: Thur, Aug 3 | 8:30 pm
Brookview Park
- 2: Thur, Aug 17 | 8:30 pm
Medley Park

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

FIRE RELIEF ASSOCIATION STREET DANCE



Sat, June 24 | 5–midnight
Chester Bird American Legion, Hwy 100
& Glenwood Ave

Free event sponsored by the Golden Valley Fire Relief Association to celebrate its bond

with the community. Features music, food, family activities, and fireworks. Details at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/street-dance.



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Golden Valley, MN 55427

763-593-8000
763-593-3968 TTY

www.goldenvalleymn.gov

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Concerts In The Park

Mondays, 7 pm, Brookview Park

Enjoy free concerts at the Gazebo.

For more information, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/concertsinthepark/ or call 763-512-2345.

- 6/5 Golden Valley Orchestra**
- 6/12 Srazhalys**
- 6/19 Percolators**
- 6/22 Robbinsdale City Band (Thur)**
- 6/26 Stompin' Dixie**
- 7/10 John Philip Sousa Band
{ICE CREAM SOCIAL}**
- 7/17 Banjo Boys**
- 7/24 Pan-Handlers Steel Drum Band**
- 7/31 Calhoun Brass**
- 8/7 Honeywell Concert Band**
- 8/14 Vinnie Rose**

VIEWS of the VALLEY

Highlighting The Comp Plan For 2017

The 25th annual *Views of the Valley* photo contest is looking for photos that celebrate Golden Valley. Enter your best work, vote for your favorite photo in the People's Choice award category, or both. Deadline to submit is June 9!



This year there will be no specific entry categories. Instead, the focus will be on photos that capture the spirit of what makes Golden Valley a successful community.

Photographers are encouraged to submit active photos of residents at work and play; artistic photos of parks, nature areas, trails, waterways, structures, neighborhoods, and buildings; and images that can be used to highlight and reinforce themes in Golden Valley's Comprehensive Plan (ie, land use, parks and nature areas, housing, transportation, water resources, economic competitiveness, and sustainability).

Judges will select the top three photos from the overall pool of entries. Additionally, the City reserves the right to award honorable mentions.

Residents can submit up to three 5x7 color or black-and-white photo finish prints (no slides, photocopies, or prints not on photo-quality paper). Digital files are appreciated but must be accompanied by a 5x7 print on photo-quality paper. Do not mat or frame photos. To read complete rules and print entry forms, visit www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/photocontest/.

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

Public voting for the People's Choice award will take place June 14–30 at City Hall and online at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/photocontest/.



Visit www.facebook.com/cityofgoldenvalleymn and "like" us on Facebook.

Annual Drinking Water Report Available Online

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

