



cityNEWS



◦ BUILDING BONDS WITH THE COMMUNITY

GV's police and fire departments are always striving to make connections with the community they serve. Here's a look.

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LIMEBIKE PROGRAM COMING TO GOLDEN VALLEY

Golden Valley will be the first city in Minnesota to try an innovative new bike-sharing program.

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Brookview Displays Community Art

If you want to see original works by talented local artists, swing by Brookview and City Hall and take in the display showing through the end of May.

“We have this new space, and it’s a great opportunity to highlight community art,” says Brian Erickson, parks and recreation supervisor. “We’re taking advantage of as much display space as we can. We’re talking about 100 pieces of art in this rotation.”

The array of eye-catching art includes paintings by Michelle Basman, Kaye Freiberg, and Greg Lecker, photographs by Vikram Kulkarni, sculptures by Craig Snyder, and mixed media pieces by several Meadowbrook Elementary fourth graders.

Basman, from Golden Valley, was born and raised in Johannesburg, South Africa, and immigrated to the USA in 1984. While her earlier work is representative of life in her birth country, her present style is a view on the beauty and peace of her chosen home state of Minnesota.

Freiberg, from Golden Valley, is an abstract acrylic artist whose multi-layered approach incorporates hand-painted papers, ink, and intuitive mark making, as well as primarily acrylic paint and mediums.

Lecker’s work, which is displayed in City Hall, focuses on themes of travel and exploration. The Minneapolis painter captures the changing atmosphere of man-made and natural settings in art filled with color, motion, and emotion.



Snyder, from Plymouth, works in metal sculpting. He has an affinity to color and often will use paint and vibrant patinas to create eye-catching and interesting pieces.

Kulkarni, from Golden Valley, is a photographer by passion and a manager in his day job. His photos are representative of his love of traveling, camping, and aurora chasing.

A class project by Meadowbrook Elementary School fourth-graders involved creating box displays, using any materials or mediums they wanted, to depict what they learned after researching countries of their choice.

Artwork on display in both buildings is rotated quarterly at the start of each new season (summer on May 31, fall on Aug 30, winter on Nov 29, and spring on Feb 28, 2019). Learn more at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/about/public-art.

Severe Weather Awareness Week Is April 9-13

Because Minnesotans are about to enter the highest risk time of year for severe weather, the City of Golden Valley encourages everyone to brush up on their severe weather know-how. One of the most important things is to never ignore warning sirens.

“If you’re outside and you hear the sirens, seek shelter immediately,” says Stephen Baker, Golden Valley battalion chief. “Severe weather can hit in a matter of seconds.”

Just don’t run under the metal bleachers or a tree, he adds. Lightning kills more people in Minnesota than any other summer weather threat. Get inside a structure. If a tornado is coming and you’re stuck in the open, find the lowest place close to you, like a ditch, and lay in it.

Community-Wide Drills April 12

During Severe Weather Awareness Week, outdoor warning sirens will sound statewide Thur, April 12 at 1:45 and 6:45 pm so businesses, other facilities, and people at home can practice drills and develop a tornado sheltering plan. Severe weather, including tornados, occurs most often between 3 pm and 8 pm.

Watch the City website for daily severe weather information April 9-13. The City will also issue a GV Emergency test alert before the April 12 drill. Learn more about GV Emergency notifications at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/gv-emergency.



“Active In Golden Valley” Is Theme For Views Of The Valley Photo Contest

Three...Two... One... Action!

The 26th annual *Views Of The Valley* photo contest is looking for images that focus on action. There are no specific categories this year, but special consideration will be given to photos that fit the theme “Active in Golden Valley.”

Judges will be looking for shots of life in Golden Valley—people living, working, or playing; action shots of natural phenomena; artistic shots of events, celebrations, and park scenes; or anything else you believe fits the theme.

So get ready to enter your best work, vote for your favorite photo in the People’s Choice award category, or both.

Judges will select the top three photos from the overall pool of entries. The City reserves the right to award honorable mentions. The three top winners will each receive \$50, the grand prize winner will receive an additional \$50, and the People’s Choice winner will receive \$25.

Enter online at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/photocontest, or submit your photos by mail or in person to Photo Contest, City of Golden Valley, 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427 (see rules below). The entry form on this page can be photocopied, or additional forms are available online and at City Hall and Brookview.

Deadline is June 8, 2018, at 4:30 pm. Entries will not be returned. City employees and their families are not eligible to enter. Questions? Call 763-593-8004. 🐾



Photos (left to right) by Chuck Smith, Grace O’Neil, and Andrew Fitzsimmons

ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Day Phone _____

Age (if under 18) _____

Title of Photo _____

Location of Photo _____

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

Signature _____

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

CONTEST RULES

Deadline for entries is June 8, 2018

- You must be a Golden Valley resident.
- You may submit any type of photo taken in Golden Valley, but photos that fit the theme will be awarded additional points by judges. This year’s theme focuses on action (photos of people at work or play in Golden Valley, activity at City parks, nature areas, trails, waterways, structures, neighborhoods, buildings, etc).
- Submit up to three photos:
 - Digital files must be **5x7 and 300 dpi**.
 - Print photos must be trimmed to **5x7** on photo-quality paper (no slides or photocopies).
 - Do not mat or frame photos.
 - Include complete entry information for each photo (see form).
- All entries must be your own work.
- All judging decisions will be final.
- The City of Golden Valley will not be responsible for lost entries.
- If there are identifiable people in the photo and it was taken in a non-public space, it is the responsibility of the photographer to obtain permission to use the photo.

Brush Pickup Begins April 30

Golden Valley's annual residential Spring Brush Pick-Up, running from April 30 to May 14, gives homeowners the opportunity to place tree limbs and brush at the curb for collection and disposal.

Guidelines

- Tree limbs and brush must be 4 inches in diameter or less and approximately 8 feet long or less.
- Stack brush so the larger ends face the street (do NOT tie limbs together).
- Condense brush to one pile per household.
- Do not use plastic bags.
- Place brush and limbs on the boulevard completely clear of sidewalks, mailboxes, streetlights and sign poles, landscaping and fences, overhead tree branches, and power lines. If piles don't fit between the curb and sidewalk, place them on the boulevard behind the sidewalk. The contractor uses trucks with automated loading arms to pick up the brush piles. If your brush is stacked near a restricted area or tossed in a pile rather than stacked, it will be left behind.
- No leaves, grass clippings, stumps, soil, roots, limbs exceeding the size limits, building lumber, landscape timbers, or bags of garbage will be picked up. If any of these items are mixed in the brush stacks, the entire stack will be left behind. The contractor will not sort through brush stacks for acceptable material.
- To dispose of brush or tree waste not collected in this pick-up, contact your garbage hauler or choose another contractor.

The Spring Curbside Brush Pick-Up is a component of the Golden Valley recycling program. Question? Call 763-593-8030 or visit www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/yards/brush-pick-up.php.

Pick Up Schedule

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

Section 1: Week of April 30

Area north of Hwy 55 and east of Douglas Dr

Section 2: Week of May 7

Area north of Hwy 55 and west of Douglas Dr

Section 3: Week of May 14

Area south of Hwy 55

Golden Valley Recycles

GRAY Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
July 4	Sat, July 7
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 24
New Year's	Sat, Jan 5, 2019

BLUE Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Memorial Day	Sat, June 2
Labor Day	Sat, Sept 8
Christmas	Sat, Dec 29

Missed Pick Ups

If your recycling is missed, 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.

Flood Mitigation Is An Ongoing Effort

Flood management is an ongoing effort for the City of Golden Valley, and preventing flood damage to property is a top priority.

One reason flood mitigation is so necessary today is that city planners in the 1950s and 1960s didn't know what we know now about wetlands and open space and didn't always design neighborhoods and infrastructure to account for flooding and drainage issues, says Eric Eckman, Golden Valley development and assets coordinator.

Because many wetland areas that used to hold flood water were developed over the years, there are fewer areas for flood waters to drain into, meaning the City has to create them.

Cities Consider Options For DeCola Ponds Flood Mitigation

The Cities of Golden Valley, Crystal, and New Hope are currently working to minimize flood-related property damage around the DeCola Ponds and along Medicine Lake Rd near Rhode Island Ave, as well as in a portion of New Hope. The area receives storm water runoff from approximately a one-square-mile watershed that includes portions of the three cities (see map).

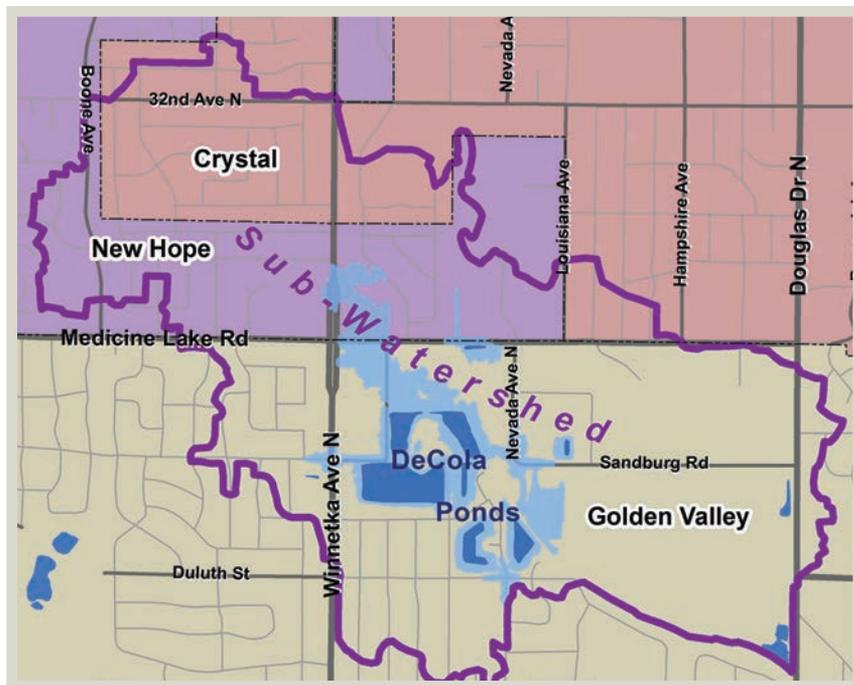
"We're studying the areas around DeCola Ponds B and C and Pennsylvania Woods Nature Area, looking for opportunities to create flood water storage," Eckman says, adding that it's a balancing act. It's necessary to create flood storage, but to do so requires tree removal and soil excavation that changes the landscape. One goal is to enhance and improve any areas of the park that are impaired.

"The big question is how to create flood storage areas to reduce flood levels and damages but also preserve as much high-quality vegetation as possible," Eckman says. It's a challenge, but if nothing is done, 37 properties adjacent to the area are at a continued risk for flooding.

To further educate the public about the issue, **the City will host an open house April 11, from 5 to 7:30 pm, at Golden Valley City Hall.**

"We're developing concepts and will be sharing them with the public and nearby property owners," Eckman says. Attendees are encouraged to provide feedback, ask questions, and offer ideas.

Project partners include Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission, Hennepin County, and state agencies such as the



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

For more information about the DeCola study or other flood mitigation efforts in Golden Valley, visit www.goldenvalleymn.gov. Under the "City Services" tab, click on "Storm Water," or under the "Your Home and Yard" tab, click on "Floodplain Management."

Advice And Discounts Available On Flood Insurance

Due to its proactive floodplain management actions, the City of Golden Valley is eligible to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and Community Rating System. This means eligible residents can receive up to a 15 percent discount on flood insurance premiums for NFIP policies issued or renewed in special flood hazard areas.

Residents can also receive advice and services from City staff. This includes free on-site visits if you have any flooding or drainage problems in your home or yard. Call 763-593-8030 to set up an appointment.

Whether or not people live in a flood hazard area, they should work with their insurance company to review and assess their own risk, Eckman says.

Questions? Contact Eckman at 763-593-8084 or eckman@goldenvalleymn.gov 



City Goes Green With Brookview Construction

Achieving ever higher levels of environmental sustainability is one of the City’s goals, and the recent construction of Brookview Golden Valley was a perfect opportunity to make strides forward.

“In the design, development and construction, and through the whole process, the environmental impacts and energy saving possibilities were always being considered,” says Rick Birno, director of parks and recreation.

The construction followed sustainability guidelines set out by LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, the most widely used green building rating system in the world. While the building has not been officially certified, Brookview was designed to meet the LEED silver certification requirements.

Major sustainable design elements in the Brookview project include:

- bicycle racks at north and east entrance
- three new storm water management basins
- solar reflective roofs and roof pavers to reduce heat island effect, and solar-panel-friendly roof design for future solar panel installations
- high-efficiency, low-water-use plumbing fixtures throughout
- high-efficiency electrical and mechanical systems

- overall building designed to achieve approximately 15 percent reduction in energy use compared to non-green construction
- recycled/reconstituted veneer used for interior wood doors
- conference tables made from salvaged wood from trees damaged in storms
- reclaimed white oak paneling in lobby and restaurant
- low-VOC adhesives, paints, coatings, and flooring
- high-tech lighting control system with adjustment for daylight and occupancy
- abundant natural daylight in public spaces and offices
- LED light fixtures throughout
- native and/or drought-resistant and resilient plants selected for landscaping

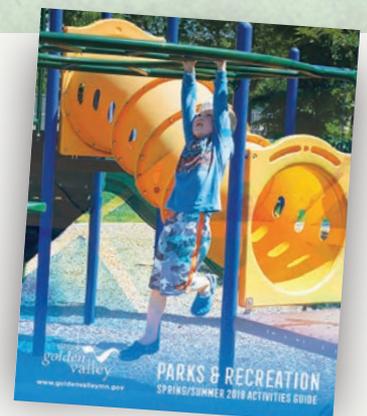
“The Open Space and Environmental Commission members believe that as the City continues to build in the future, it builds responsibly green,” Birno says. “It’s better for the environment. Better for the community. And over time, it will save us money.”



GET YOUR REC ON!

Looking for cool, fun things to do in and around Golden Valley this summer? Along with the opportunities provided by our well-maintained parks and trails, the City’s Parks and Rec Department offers an array of programs and activities for all ages and interests. See complete list of activities in the Spring/Summer

Activities catalog or at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation. **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, or online.



Golden Valley To Try Innovative LimeBike Program

Rental Bike Service Will Be First In Minnesota

Starting this spring, Golden Valley will be the first city in Minnesota to try out a new and innovative approach to public transportation: LimeBike.

At its March 20 meeting, the City Council approved a memorandum of understanding with LimeBike to deploy road bikes and electric bikes throughout the city this spring as part of a pilot program with the bike sharing company.

The LimeBike system has similarities to the NiceRide Minnesota program (which operates in Minneapolis and St Paul), but with one major difference—there are no docking stations for LimeBikes. They can be parked anywhere, as long as it's a legal parking location for a bike.

How It Works

1. To use the LimeBike system, first download the LimeBike app.
2. Using GPS tracking, the app will tell you where the nearest available LimeBike is.
3. When you find the bike, you scan its barcode and use the app's payment system to unlock the bike. You can then ride it wherever you want to go.
4. When you park the bike and end your rental session, you need to lock the bike, and it can only be used again when another LimeBike customer chooses to rent it.

Unlocking a bike for use will cost \$1. Customers would then be charged \$1 for every 30 minutes with the bike (\$1 for every 10 minutes for electric bikes), until the rental session ends.

LimeBike is present in about 50 markets nationally, but this will be the first time the service comes to Minnesota.

"LimeBike prefers to launch in communities that share our enthusiasm for active transportation and for creating new mobility opportunities," says Gabriel Scheer, director of strategic development for LimeBike. "We have seen that enthusiasm from Golden Valley since we began the conversation.



"Further," Scheer adds, "with progressive local employers such as General Mills, we see an opportunity to help employees get around in more fun, efficient, and healthy ways."

Convenient Transportation, Useful Data

Not only does LimeBike offer residents a convenient way to get around town, it will also provide the City data about bike-use patterns, says Marc Nevinski, physical development director for Golden Valley.

"It can tell us where the highest demands are for biking and give us some ideas for better trail designs and locations," he says.

The pilot program will last through the end of 2018, at which point the City will weigh the pros and cons of the service and decide if the program should continue.

"We ask users to be considerate of others," says Nevinski, "and not leave bikes where they block sidewalks, doorways, benches, or become obstacles for pedestrians or vehicles. Our hope is that it works out, that we see people using the bikes throughout the community.

"Trying this service doesn't cost us any money," Nevinski says. "LimeBike will be responsible for the operations and maintenance of the bikes, not the City." 

PUBLIC SAFETY OUTREACH

Every summer, Golden Valley's police and fire employees plan community events to build relationships, provide information, resources, and crime prevention tips with community members and also receive feedback. "It's an opportunity to meet with citizens on a personal level," he says. "The more we get to know you, the better we can improve safety for everyone." Below are some of the public outreach events coming up this year.



BIKE RODEO

May 3, 6–8 pm
Crystal Community Center

Bring your bicycle for a free safety check, take a riding skills test, and learn to fit a bike helmet. No pre-registration required. Enjoy music, complimentary refreshments, door prizes, and appearances by McGruff the Crime Dog and Sparky the Fire Dog.

www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/bikerodeo

VEHICLE FAIR

May 12, 10 am–noon
Crystal Community Center

See "up close" the City vehicles that come and go through your neighborhood. Explore fire trucks, patrol cars, snowplows, and more—don't forget your camera! A free-will donation of a non-perishable food for the local food shelf will be accepted at this event. Sponsored by the Cities of Golden Valley, Crystal, New Hope, and Robbinsdale.

www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation/free-events-and-activities.php



PUBLIC SAFETY IN THE PARKS

June 21: Gearty Park, 11 am

June 28: Wesley Park, 2:30 pm

July 12: Hampshire Park, 2:30 pm

July 19: Lions Park, 2:30 pm

July 26: Medley Park, 11 am

Aug 2: Scheid Park, 2:30 pm

www.goldenvalleymn.gov/police/public-safety-in-the-parks

CREATES COMMUNITY BONDS

relationships with residents. The events give the City the opportunity to share important feedback and suggestions from citizens, says Dave Kuhnly, police operations commander. "The more the public gets to know us, the better we partner together to keep our community safe."

PUBLIC SAFETY OPEN HOUSE

June 20, 6–8 pm

Golden Valley Public Safety Building

Tour the Police Station and Fire Station 1, win prizes, and check out the equipment the Golden Valley Police and Fire Departments use to keep the community safe.

www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/openhouse



FIRE RELIEF STREET DANCE

June 23, 5–midnight

Chester Bird American Legion

This free event is sponsored by the Golden Valley Fire Relief Association to celebrate its bond with the community. Enjoy live music, family activities, food, and fireworks.

www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/streetdance

NIGHT TO UNITE

Aug 7

Minnesota Night To Unite is held the first Tuesday night of August to raise awareness about crime prevention and safety. Golden Valley neighborhoods are invited to join cities throughout Minnesota in having potluck dinners, ice cream socials, barbecues, bike parades, etc. Use your imagination and plan something fun!

www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/nighttounite



Technology & Crime: Friend Or Foe?

Depending on how you use it and the precautions you take, technology can help protect you from crimes, but it can also be a back door for criminals.



For example, a surveillance camera on your stoop can deter burglars and capture images of potential suspects if your home ends up burglarized or if someone steals a package from your stoop, says Joanne Paul, Golden Valley crime analyst.

That said, surveillance cameras can be used against you if you're not careful.

Lock Down Your Wi-Fi

"It's great to have this technology at our disposal, but, if you're using these devices, make sure they come from a trusted source and your Wi-Fi network is secure," Paul says.

If you purchase a camera off the internet and put very little research into what you're buying, it's possible the device could be preloaded with hacking software. It doesn't even have to be preloaded with hacking software if it's on an unsecured network. Either way, criminals could hack into it and use it to spy on you.

One of the first things you should do to protect yourself, Paul says, is secure your home's Wi-Fi.

"I was checking the other day and saw there's a home on my block where the owners still haven't set a password for their Wi-Fi network. This makes them a target. People don't realize how vulnerable they are on unsecured networks. It's like leaving your front door open," Paul says.

If your Wi-Fi isn't secured, hackers can gain access to anything in your home that connects to the internet. This includes the cameras and microphones on your computers.



"Technology is a great tool for us, and for fighting crime," Paul says. "We just need to make sure we've taken the proper measures to protect ourselves from these tools being used against us."

The Power Of Passwords

If there's any one thing you should do to keep yourself safe while using technology, it's secure your devices with passwords, and then regularly update those passwords with complex, hard-to-guess combinations.

Granted, it's not easy remembering if you need to capitalize part of your password, or use special symbols, numbers, or punctuation. It's much easier going with something simple, like 12345, or just the word "password," which, believe it or not, are actually fairly common passwords, says Adam Knauer, City of Golden Valley IT specialist.

But going with the simple password means crooks can easily guess it. The strength of your password is often the only thing between a crook and your private data, devices, and financial records.

Knauer suggests using an entire phrase as your password. If it's a whole sentence, then it's easy to remember that the first character should be capitalized and the last character is a punctuation mark. Also, entire phrases are incredibly hard for crooks to crack, Knauer says.

Another important precaution is to never reuse any password. If you do, and crooks crack it, this gives them access to as many devices and accounts that also use that same password.

So, when it comes to technology, both Paul and Knauer recommend being a little paranoid. These devices can be your friend as long as you're vigilant, but let your guard down, and they can turn on you real fast.



Me, A Firefighter? Yes, You!

One of Golden Valley's newest firefighters didn't think she had what it took until her dog, Olive, changed her mind.

Aila Crumley had asked her husband multiple times to consider joining the Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD). One day he said "if you're so interested in firefighting, maybe you should sign up yourself." Crumley was skeptical.

"I thought I couldn't do it," she says. "So my husband asked me to try to pick up our dog."

They figured if she could lift their 50-lb dog, she'd be able to carry heavy fire equipment or drag someone out of a burning building. So Crumley gave it a try and was able to do it. Suddenly, becoming a firefighter didn't seem so farfetched.

Crumley is currently starting her second year of training with the GVFD, and she says "it's been amazing." Anyone interested in becoming a firefighter should check out one of the recruitment information meetings, she advises, "even if you don't believe you have what it takes. You might be surprised."

What Does It Take?

You don't actually have to be able to deadlift a 50-lb dog to be a firefighter, says Battalion Chief Steve Baker. But if it gives you the confidence to consider joining up, and the dog is OK with it, then more power to you.

"When it comes to physical ability, there is no one specific requirement you have to meet to be a firefighter. We need people with a variety of abilities and backgrounds," Baker says. "The main requirements are that you're at least 18 years old, have a valid driver's license, and live or work within six minutes of a Golden Valley fire station."

A lot of people think they're too old, too busy, too weak, or too out of shape to be a fire fighter.

"And all I want to say to those people is 'let's talk,'" Baker says.



Firefighter Aila Crumley

Attending a fire recruitment information meeting is a great way to help extinguish your doubts.

For more information, see the box below or visit www.goldenvalleyfire.com. You can also contact Baker at 763-593-3977.

Recruitment Meetings

Thur, May 3 | 6:30 pm

Thur, June 28 | 9:30 am & 6:30 pm

Fire Station 1, 7800 Golden Valley Rd

Firefighter Recruitment Expo

Thur, June 14 | 6-10 pm

Fire Station 1, 7800 Golden Valley Rd

Must live or work within six minutes of a Golden Valley Fire Station. Sign up online at www.goldenvalleyfire.com.

Team GV Top Fundraiser In Fight For Air Climb

Thirteen people participated as Team Golden Valley Fire in the Feb 24 American Lung Association Fight For Air, a fundraiser that brought dozens of fire departments and hundreds of firefighters to US Bank Plaza in Minneapolis for a 31-story climb in full fire gear.

Team Golden Valley Fire raised \$9,484 this year, bringing its 11-year total to \$116,585. Golden Valley has been one of the top fundraising teams for each of the years it has participated in the climb. Golden Valley Battalion Chief Ken Bence was again the top individual fundraiser for the event, bringing in \$5,446. 🐾



*Front Row (L to R): Ryan Baker, Steve Baker, Aila Crumley, Jen Chen, Brett Fierce, and Jon Kennelly
Middle Row (L to R): Ken Bence, Richard Alme, Tom Bloxsom, Mike Palmer, Chad Schneider, and Tariq Bashir
Back Row: Max Hazledine*

2018: Another Big Year For Street Maintenance And Construction

The City has much to tackle this street maintenance season, with a planned expansion of its mill and overlay program, a potentially worse-than-average pothole season, and a new approach to street sweeping.

In addition, several street construction projects will be underway, as reported in the January/February *CityNews*. For details go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/streets/construction.

Residents directly affected by these projects will be notified by mail.

Mill And Overlay

Mill and overlay involves removing 1 inch of pavement along the curb line and repaving the road. Each year, to save money, the City does a portion of its mill and overlay work in-house rather than contract with a private company.

This season crews will expand the project beyond their normal goal of completing one mile of road per year to three miles, says Marshall Beugen, streets and vehicle maintenance supervisor.

“We’re tripling the work to get ahead of potential asphalt failures,” he says.

Crews will perform mill and overlay work from Jersey Ave east to Douglas Dr, and from Olympia Ave south to Golden Valley Rd.

Golden Valley will partner with Minnetonka to help get the work done. Projects will begin this spring as weather permits.

See A Pothole? Let The City Know

Like last year, this year’s pothole season may be worse than average, Beugen says.

The more freeze-thaw cycles there are, the more potholes form, and this year has seen a lot of extreme temperature fluctuations.

During pothole season, City maintenance crews repair these nuisances daily. Priority is given to the more heavily traveled roads, but all holes are repaired as detected.

If you see a pothole, call 763-593-8030 to report it.

“We can’t check all of the streets all the time,” Beugen says. “It helps when residents call them in.”

Street Sweepers To Prioritize Waterways

Street sweepers pick up grit and decomposing leaves to keep them out of the waterways. This improves water quality and helps prevent flooding.

Unlike past years, the street sweeping location schedule will not be on a specified rotation.

“To prevent pollutants from getting into ponds and streams, we’ll be focused on sweeping streets around water bodies,” Beugen says. Crews will also prioritize areas that were not swept last fall due to weather.

Remember, it’s against City ordinance to blow leaves into the street or put anything else into the street. The extra debris clogs the storm sewer, gets into the waterways, and disrupts street sweeping.

The City only uses two sweepers, which means it takes several weeks to sweep every road. Sweeping will begin as soon as the snow melts from the curb lines. 🌞





Tips From Your Toilet

Hello. It's your toilet here. We need to talk.

There's no delicate way to put this, so I'll just be frank. I'm costing you too much money, more money than you ought to be paying, and the reason comes down to what you flush.

I know this is an awkward topic, but hear me out. It's important because flushing items that don't belong in the toilet puts a major strain on City infrastructure and costs taxpayers lots of money. Golden Valley is buying a new grinder system because the current method of removing these items is outdated and can no longer keep up with the amount of non-flushables in the system (see attached photo). This equipment and the hard work that goes into cleaning, fixing, or replacing it doesn't come cheap.



I don't ask for much, but I have one request: Please don't flush anything that isn't meant to be flushed.

Besides the obvious (and let's not get into specifics on that!), toilet paper is the only thing meant to go down the toilet drain. Paper towels? Not flushable. Floss? Don't even get me started. Cleansing pads, feminine hygiene products, food waste, grease, cotton balls, tissues, bandages, and even "flushable" wet wipes should all go in the trash, not down my drain.

I know what you're thinking. "Really? Even flushable wipes?" Yes. They contribute to clogs just like paper towels do. Don't ask me why these wipes are labeled as "flushable" even though they shouldn't be. It's a mystery that keeps me up at night. Perhaps one day when the science is good enough it will be OK to flush "flushable" wipes, but until then, please dispose of them in the trash.

Oh, and since we're on the topic of me, there's one more thing: Excess water.

If your water bill seems higher than you think it should be, the culprit might be a toilet leak. This is embarrassing for me to admit, but toilets can develop leaky valves over time, and these leaks can silently drain water from the tank into the bowl. Left unchecked, a leak like this leaves a real mark on your water bill and puts excess water into the sanitary sewer system, which raises water treatment costs.

To find out if you have a leak, you can put a few drops of food coloring into my tank (or use a non-toxic dye tab available at the City Hall general services desk). If the dye color later shows up in the bowl, even though you haven't flushed, that means I'm leaking (Oh, the joys of aging!). You'll probably need to replace my flapper valve.

OK. I think this old toilet has rambled on long enough. Just remember, be vigilant about what goes down that drain. You'll be saving yourself and others time and money.

Thanks for hearing me out!

Sincerely,
Your Toilet

Driving In Work Zones: Put Your Phone Away And Pay Attention

If there's one thing Marshall Beugen wants people to do while driving through a construction zone, it's this: Put your phone away and pay attention.

"Inattentive driving has gotten terrible," says Beugen, Golden Valley street maintenance supervisor. "Anytime we're doing flagging operations, where we have a single lane open with staff members regulating traffic on either end of the work zone, there's always an instance where a driver blows past the stop sign, and they're usually on their cell phone. They're just not paying attention."

When people aren't paying attention, not only do they blow past stop signs and other work zone warnings, they also fail to slow down, and that only increases the risks, Beugen says.

"We need people to slow down when they see the work signs," Beugen says. "We need people to be patient."

Fines Double In Work Zones

There's a reason traffic fines are doubled in construction zones. Fatalities in road construction and maintenance work zones average more than 600 people per year, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

The main causes of work zone crashes, according to MnDOT, are drivers speeding and not paying attention.

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

In addition to slowing down and paying attention, Beugen says, people should make sure to give plenty of room for the cars ahead of them and for the road workers. They should also avoid unnecessary lane changes and never enter a road blocked with barriers or cones.

Pedestrians in work zones should stay as far from the construction equipment as possible and remain on designated walking paths, says Tim Kiefer, Golden Valley public works maintenance manager. Just like with the drivers, pedestrians in work zones should put their phones away and pay attention. It may save lives. 📵

City To Discuss Options Around Trash Hauling

At its annual goals session Jan 30, the City Council decided it would use 2018 to study options for residential trash collection in the Golden Valley. At the March 10 Council/Manager meeting, City staff presented a process the Council could follow to learn more about trash collection models, engage residents and trash haulers in discussion, and identify City goals for waste collection.

Under Golden Valley's current open system, residents contract individually with a hauler of their choice for trash collection, while recycling collection is provided through a single hauler contracted by the City.

The Council's decision to study trash collection results from questions and discussions presented to the City over several years. Additionally, the City may need to prepare for changes in

the marketplace and public policy, such as interest in curbside collection and composting of organic waste.

The Council plans to consider baseline information about trash hauling at an upcoming meeting in April and identify possible goals it would like to achieve. From there, Council will engage various stakeholders (residents, haulers, etc) before it considers what changes, if any, should be made to the current system.

The study and discussion process is expected to wrap up by fall, but changes to the current system, if any, would not occur for some time afterwards.

More information, including an opportunity to subscribe to email updates, is available at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recycling. 📧

UPCOMING events



PHOTO BY MARY LOU ADAMS, VIEWS OF THE VALLEY 2017

Severe Weather Awareness Week

April 9-13 (see page 2)

DeCola Ponds Flood Mitigation Open House

Wed, April 11 | 5-7:30 pm (see page 5)

Run the Valley

Sat, April 21 | 7:30 am (see page 16)

Spring Brush Pick-Up

April 30-May 14 (see page 4)

Step To It Challenge

May 1-28

Twenty-three cities compete to see which one has the most active residents. Register at www.steptoit.org.

Bike Rodeo

Thur, May 3 | 6-8 pm (see page 8)

Firefighter Recruitment Meetings

May 3 and June 28 (see page 11)

Vehicle Fair

Sat, May 12 | 10 am-noon (see page 8)



Coffee With A Cop

Thur, May 17 | 9-10:30 am

Byerlys, 5725 Duluth St

Drop by for a cup of coffee and conversation with Golden Valley police officers.



Views Of The Valley Photo Contest Deadline

Fri, June 8 | 4:30 pm (see page 3)

Market In The Valley

Opens Sun, June 17

Outdoor farmers market under the water tower. Get more information at www.marketinthevalley.org.

Public Safety Open House

Wed, June 20 | 6-8 pm (see page 9)

Fire Relief Association Street Dance

Sat, June 23 | 5 pm-midnight (see page 9)



Concerts In The Park

Mondays | 7 pm | Brookview Park

6/4 Golden Valley Orchestra

6/11 Stompin' Dixie

6/18 Srazhalys

6/21 Robbinsdale City Band (Thur)

6/25 Plymouth Concert Band

7/9 John Philip Sousa Band

7/16 Banjo Boys

7/23 Pan-Handlers Steel Drum Band

7/30 Vinnie Rose

8/6 Percolators

8/13 Wondercure



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To Register

- In Person: \$35 by 2 pm April 20 at Brookview, \$40 on race day (7–7:45 am). Check, cash, or VISA/MasterCard.
- Walk fee is \$25.
- Online (by April 19): \$35 www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/runthevalley/index.php (additional fee may apply).
- Children 12 and under may register for \$20 when accompanied by an adult (chip timing not included—to be eligible for medal, chip timing must be used).

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

Run The Valley For A Stronger Community



Race headquarters for *Run the Valley*, one of Golden Valley’s most popular events, moves back to Brookview this year. The Sat, April 21 event begins and ends at 316 Brookview Parkway S, and the course runs through residential Golden Valley.

Run the Valley benefits the Golden Valley Human Services Fund. One hundred percent of the proceeds are allocated to non-profit organizations that serve Golden Valley residents in need.

The event kicks off at 7:45 am with a .2-mile Kids Fun Run for youth ages 2–12 (\$5 fee includes Fun Run number and participation ribbon; parents may accompany little ones for free). The 10K run begins at 8 am, followed by the 5K run at 8:15 am and 5K walk at 8:20 am (5K and 10K races will be chip-timed).

Water stops and post-race complimentary snacks are donated by area businesses. 

Corporate sponsors for 2017 were Lunds & Byerlys-Golden Valley, Optum Health, City of Golden Valley (gold); Legacy Rehabilitation Group, Park Nicollet Clinic-Golden Valley (silver); and Accord Financial Strategies, Gary Metchnek Edina Realty, Liberty Carton Company (LDI), Oak Grove Church, Relative Strength, Salus LLC DBA Anytime Fitness, Snap Fitness, TruStone Financial, Voyen Chiropractor, weRow (bronze). Other sponsors included Al’s Coffee, Bassett Creek Dental, CCX Media, Finken Water Solutions, General Mills Yoplait USA, Go Health Chiropractic, Lunds & Byerlys-Golden Valley, Old Fashioned Donut Shoppe, and Perkins Family Restaurants-Hwy 55 and I-394.

Plymouth Tree Sale Runs Through May 1

This year the City of Plymouth’s annual tree and shrub sale features 10 varieties of trees, six shrubs, and four fruit plants. Golden Valley residents can order plants from the sale through May 1.

Plants are selected for their resistance to pests and diseases and their adaptability to local growing conditions.

Most of the trees will be 5 to 6 feet tall at the time of purchase. Some come in pots, but most are bare-root, which means they will not have soil on the roots. Bare-root trees cost less, are easier to transport and have up to 200 percent more roots than the traditional balled and burlapped plants. They are also easy to plant.

Plants do not come with a warranty. Quantities are limited, so order early. For information on available plants and pricing, or to place an order, visit plymouthmn.gov/treesale. Information is also available at the Physical Development counter in Golden Valley City Hall.

Plants will be available for pick-up May 11 (3–6 pm) and 12 (8 am–noon) at the Plymouth Public Works maintenance facility, 14900 23rd Ave N.

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



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.

