

cityNEWS



CityNews Is Improving To Serve You Better

In today's digital age, information is consumed in smaller bites. We are modifying *CityNews* to make it easier to read, while still providing important information about City services and activities. Stay tuned for updates.

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Golden Valley Rolls Out Welcoming Statement

Golden Valley now has an official welcome statement to convey the community's commitment to equity and inclusion. The following statement was developed by the City's Human Rights Commission (HRC) at the City Council's request.

The City of Golden Valley believes in and stands for the values of social equity, inclusion, and justice.

We embrace diversity and recognize the rights of individuals to live their lives with dignity, free of discrimination, fear, violence, and hate.

We welcome individuals to Golden Valley regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, immigration status, gender, gender identity, marital status, age,

disability, economic status, sexual orientation, familial status, or cultural background.

We strive to provide fair and unbiased services and programs, giving opportunities for all.

We are dedicated to being a supportive and united community, strengthened by the diversity of our residents and visitors.

2040 Comp Plan Draft Available For Citizen Review



After years of preliminary work, the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan draft is ready for citizen review. Deadline for feedback is July 15, 2018.

Adjacent municipalities and other jurisdictions (MnDOT, school districts, watershed districts, etc) will have six months to provide comments while Golden Valley staff reviews their plans in return.

At the conclusion of both review periods, City staff will make necessary changes to the document before bringing it to the Planning Commission for review and then to the City Council for review and approval. This will happen in late fall. Once the City Council approves the plan it will be sent to the Metropolitan Council for final review.

According to City Planning Manager Jason Zimmerman, the 2040 Comp Plan already went through a rigorous public feedback process just to get to this point.

"This part of the feedback phase is more about finding things we might have overlooked during the drafting process," Zimmerman says.

The implementation phase will begin next year. Every chapter of the plan lays out implementation actions the City can use to hit the ground running in 2019, Zimmerman says.

Watch the City website and future newsletters for updates about Comp Plan public hearings this fall.

The draft for public review is posted on the City website at bit.ly/GV2040CompPlan. You may submit feedback online or by visiting Golden Valley City Hall during office hours.

bit.ly/GV2040CompPlan

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.

www.goldenvalleymn.gov/watersewer/water



Permits Needed For Recreational Fires

Residents who want to have a recreational fire in Golden Valley must get a permit from the City and be prepared to show it if needed. Permits can be obtained for free online and in person at the Public Safety Building.

Safety Tips:

- Fires must be kept a safe distance away from any structure and a minimum of 10 feet away from any property lines.
- Fires can be no larger than 3 feet in diameter and 3 feet high and must always be attended by a responsible person age 18 or older until extinguished.
- Only clean wood can be burned (no yard waste, construction materials, or common household trash).
- A garden hose or other adequate means of extinguishment must be available during the fire.
- Recreational fires are not allowed if wind speeds exceed 10 miles per hour.

goldenvalleymn.gov/fire/permits/recreational-fires.php

Run The Valley Raises \$16,000

At the 24th annual Run The Valley 5/10K Run and 5K Walk April 21, sponsors and participants raised more than \$16,000 for the Golden Valley Human Services Fund (GVHSF), which allocates funds to local human service organizations that benefit the community.

Of the 424 participants, 173 ran the 5K race, 114 ran the 10K race, 70 did the 5K walk, 28 ran the fun run for kids, and 21 ran the 12U run.

Several Golden Valley residents won their age group categories. They include Anders Peterson (under 19), Brian Weaver (40-49), Loren Braun (60-69), Heidi Hollinbeck (30-39), and Erin Peterson (40-49) in the 5K and Vernon Berglund (50-59), Neville Basman (60-69), Kari Minnich (30-39), and Dena Vernier (40-49) in the 10K.

goldenvalleymn.gov/events/runthevalley



Parks & Recreation Department Snags Two MRPA Awards

Golden Valley's Parks & Recreation Department recently received two Awards of Excellence from the Minnesota Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) for its work in 2017.

The new Brookview was recognized in the category of Parks & Facilities, and the Schaper Park Challenge Course was recognized for Partnerships and Facility Design.

MRPA Awards of Excellence recognize agencies, organizations, and institutions in Minnesota for their outstanding and unique accomplishments in recreation, parks, facilities, and leisure services. Award categories include Marketing & Communications, Parks & Facilities, Programming & Events, Sponsorships & Partnerships, Volunteer Initiatives, and Administrative.

Views Of The Valley Deadline Is June 15

The *Views of the Valley* photo contest is a great way for Golden Valley residents to show off their photography and get rewarded for it!

This year's theme focuses on action. Residents are encouraged to submit photos of people at work or play at City parks, nature areas, trails, waterways, structures, neighborhoods, and buildings in Golden Valley. Any photo may be submitted, but photos that fit the current year's theme will be awarded additional points by judges.

Photos can be submitted at City Hall or online. Deadline is June 15 at 4:30 pm.

goldenvalleymn.gov/events/photocontest



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF

June 15–16, 9 am–4 pm
2025 Texas Ave S, St Louis Park
(St Louis Park Jr High School)

Bring your hazardous waste to this free drop-off sponsored by Hennepin County Recycling. Check the county website for a complete list of accepted materials and drop-off instructions.

www.hennepin.us/collectionevents

Golden Valley Recycles

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.

goldenvalleymn.gov/recycling

Sign up to receive emailed recycling updates and reminders.

goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe

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

Council Sets Goals For Waste Collection Discussion

One of the City Council's objectives for 2018 is to study and discuss waste and recycling collection in Golden Valley. Council members recently identified the following goals for this process:

- Ensure residents have options for the type and level of waste disposal services they desire.
- Establish waste disposal practices that improve environmental outcomes.
- Establish standards for waste collection that minimize impacts to infrastructure and enhance neighborhood livability (cleaner, safer, quieter, and healthier).
- Avoid significant operational or capital cost increases to the City and residents.
- Increase the City's and community's understanding of the waste disposal process in order to achieve its goals and those of its partner agencies.

City staff and the Council will use these goals to frame discussions and evaluate options in considering the future of waste and recycling collections in Golden Valley. Watch future newsletters and the City website for updates.

goldenvalleymn.gov/recycling/residential-waste-hauling.php

Hearing Set For Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan

All communities with more than 10,000 people are federally mandated to obtain a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit. They must also report annually how they are managing storm water discharge to reduce sediment and pollution loading in natural receiving waters such as lakes, wetlands, and streams.

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 19 at 6:30 pm).

The June 19 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: Eric Eckman, 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 Eckman at 763-593-8044.

Assessing Risk For Flooding Is Wise Move For Property Owners

Because of Golden Valley's floodplain management activities, Golden Valley residents may receive up to a 15 percent discount on flood insurance premiums for policies issued or renewed in special flood hazard areas under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and Community Rating System.

They can also receive technical advice from City staff on flooding, drainage issues, and flood protection methods for buildings and property. 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.

The City also provides the following information and services upon request:

- whether your property is in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) as shown on Hennepin County's current Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)
- whether your property is in an area known to flood but not mapped on a FIRM, or is in an area that flooded in the past
- whether your property is in or near an area with a natural floodplain function (such as a wetland)
- other historic flood information and studies

- a floodplain search letter or additional flood insurance data (a fee of \$25 will be charged for a floodplain search letter signed by the City engineer)
- basic information regarding flood insurance requirements that can help people who need a mortgage or loan for a property in the SFHA
- elevation certificates for new and substantially improved structures in the SFHA

Approximately 25 percent of all flood damage claims occur outside of the floodplain. City staff recommends that residents work with their insurance company to review and assess their risk, whether they live in a flood hazard area or not.

The City's floodplain management ordinance regulates activities and development within the floodplain and other areas of the City prone to flooding.

Questions? Contact Eric Eckman at 763-593-8030 or eckman@goldenvalleymn.gov.

goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/flood-plain-management.php

GV Earns Award For Urban Forest Management

Golden Valley has once again been named a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management. The City also received a Tree City USA Growth Award for demonstrating environmental improvement and a higher level of tree care.

The Growth Award is presented to cities that have a Tree City designation and show a per capita increase in expenditure for an urban forestry program. Golden Valley's commitment to urban forestry was demonstrated by four specific programs:

- a buckthorn management plan
- the ongoing Douglas Drive reconstruction and landscape project

- a computerized tree management system
- the ash removal and replacement project along Winnetka Ave

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, in partnership with the US Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. Golden Valley has achieved Tree City USA certification annually since 1987.

goldenvalleymn.gov/natural-resources/forestry

FIREFIGHTERS SEE CHALLENGES AS AN HONOR

By the time a firefighter puts on a polymer helmet, Kevlar jacket, breathing apparatus, and steel-toe turnout boots, she or he is carrying up to 60 lbs of gear, and that's not counting extra tools like a radio, flashlight, axe, halligan, ladder, hose, or any other unexpected weight loads required for the job.

It may be a challenge to carry all this weight, but Golden Valley firefighters would never call it a burden.

"There is a need for the specialized skills of first responders in the community, and I am fortunate enough, with the support of my family, to be able to do it," says 2017 recruit Steve Peschman.

"I enjoy a good physical challenge and helping others in any way I can," says Jennifer Chen, also a 2017 recruit. "With my day job, these hobbies remain separate. Firefighting gives me an opportunity to do both at the same time."

The training. The weight load. The challenge of the job. These trials are no match for the satisfaction of doing your part to help your fellow neighbors, says Ron Blum, class of 2017.

"The noblest question in the world is, what good may I do in it," he says. "As a Golden Valley firefighter, I get to answer that question every day."

Accept The Challenge

If you've wondered about being a firefighter but feared the physical requirements and responsibility would be too much for you, you just might surprise yourself, says Steve Baker, battalion chief.

"We have firefighters on our team who used to feel this way, but as they learned more about the job and started

the training, they discovered they were capable of so much more."

As professionals in a specific field, firefighters have to become experts in a matter of months, explains Baker. The rate of

learning is incredibly high but it's all rewarding.

"People are going to have very bad days," he says. "As firefighters, we can be there for people when fires and emergencies happen and keep that bad day from getting worse."

Learn More

If you live or work within six minutes of a fire station, are over 18, and have a valid driver's license, you are eligible to apply. Check out an educational meeting or the firefighter recruitment expo (see box). You may discover there's more strength in you than you thought.

"We don't rely on ordinary citizens to be firefighters," Baker says. "We rely on extraordinary citizens who just don't know they're extraordinary yet."



Firefighter Recruitment Expo

Thur, June 14, 6–10 pm
Fire Station 1 • 7700
Golden Valley Rd

Public Safety Open House

Wed, June 20, 6–8 pm
City Hall Campus • 7800
Golden Valley Rd

Recruitment Meetings

Thur, June 28, 9:30 am & 6:30 pm
Fire Station 1 • 7700 Golden Valley Rd

GVFD Improvements Lead To Better ISO Rating

The Golden Valley Fire Department improved its ISO (insurance services office) rating this year, meaning businesses and residents could pay less for insurance.

An improved ISO rating is a reflection of the GVFD's overall firefighting capabilities on a 1 to 10 scale, explains John Crelly, fire chief. This ranks them in the top 2 percent nationally of the 47,000 fire-response jurisdictions evaluated.

Insurance companies use ISO rating information to help establish fair premiums for fire insurance, generally offering lower premiums in communities with better protection.

"They look at the City's water system, our department training records, the 911 system, and our fire equipment, trucks, and hoses, all to holistically evaluate how we measure up" Crelly says.

The department's rating improved two points, from 4 to 2, since it was last evaluated by ISO agents in 2012.

Golden Valley's class 2 rating is achieved by only 1,481 other departments in the US and currently six others in Minnesota. Nationally, only 305 departments have a class 1 rating, and there are no ISO class 1 departments in Minnesota.

Crelly attributes the rating improvement to vigilant maintenance of equipment, timely replacements, improvements in training, and improvements in Golden



Valley's 911 dispatch provider, adding they're going to work to fortify these improvements in coming years.

Upcoming changes could improve the rating even further.

Over the next six years, the City will implement a scheduled system for paid on-call firefighters, which means that, rather than be on-call at home or work, there will be a handful of part-time firefighters at the station at any given time, explains Crelly. The goal is to decrease response times and scheduling conflicts.

goldenvalleyfire.com

LimeBike Is Coming To Town

This summer, Golden Valley plans to pilot a new and innovative approach to public transportation with the bike sharing company LimeBike.

LimeBike offers bikes and scooters that users rent, similar to the NiceRide bikes seen in Minneapolis and St. Paul but without the docking stations.

Here's how it works:

- First, download the LimeBike app, which uses GPS tracking to locate the nearest available LimeBike.
- When you find the bike, scan its barcode and use the app's payment system to unlock the bike. Then ride it wherever you want to go.

- When you park the bike at the end of your rental session, you use the app to lock it, and it can only be used again when another LimeBike customer chooses to rent it.

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

Watch the City website for updates.

goldenvalleymn.gov/about/limebike.php



7800 Golden Valley Road
Golden Valley, MN 55427

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763-593-3968 TTY

www.goldenvalleymn.gov

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UPCOMING EVENTS

goldenvalleymn.gov/events/annual

Entertainment In The Parks

Mondays, 7 pm, starting June 4
Brookview Park

Puppet Wagon Shows

Mon–Thur, June 11–Aug 2

Water Days

Fri, June 15 & July 20
12:30–2 pm
Scheid Park

Market In The Valley

Opens Sun, June 17

Public Safety Open House

Wed, June 20 | 6–8 pm
Public Safety Building

Public Safety In The Parks

June 21–Aug 2

Fire Relief Association Street Dance

Sat, June 23 | 5–midnight
Chester Bird American Legion

Magic In The Park

Fri, July 6 | 11:30 am–12:30 pm
Brookview Park

Ice Cream Social

Mon, July 9 | 7 pm
Brookview Park

Family Story Time

Wed, July 25 | 11:30 am–12:30 pm
Brookview Gazebo

Minnesota Night To Unite

Tues, Aug 7

Penny Carnival

Fri, Aug 3 | 12:30–2 pm
Brookview Park



Curl up this summer with *Vacationland*, by Sarah Stonich, the 2018 selection for Golden Valley Reads.

Golden Valley Reads, a joint program between the City and the Golden Valley Library, works like a community-wide book club. Read the book, discuss it with friends

and neighbors, and consider attending the author discussion Oct 11, 6:30 pm, at Brookview.

Books will be available at the Golden Valley Library (or other Hennepin County Libraries) starting July 1. Details are available on the City website.



goldenvalleymn.gov/community/goldenvalleyreads



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.

