

Golden Valley 2005

CITYNEWS

Loomis, Pentel, Scanlon Elected To Council

The Golden Valley City Council will have a new member when it reconvenes January 3, 2006. DeDe Scanlon and incumbent Council member Paula Pentel topped a field of four candidates to fill four-year Council terms, joining Mike Freiberg and Bob Shaffer. The November 8 City election also returned incumbent Mayor Linda Loomis, who ran unopposed, for a two-year term. Current Council member Scott Grayson did not seek reelection (see election results at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us).

Scanlon has lived in Golden Valley for 28 years and has spent her career working and/or volunteering in various social service venues. She is currently doing outreach work for Life's Missing Link, a local non-profit that provides mentoring, support, and housing for inner city youth. Over the years Scanlon also served on Golden Valley's Open Space and Recreation Commission and Outdoor Pool Task Force, Golden Valley Little League and Babe Ruth League baseball boards, and several committees for School District 281 and Benilde-St Margaret's. She has a bachelor's degree in sociology from St Cloud State University.

Pentel, a 20-year resident of Golden Valley, was first appointed to the City Council in 2004. She is working on a PhD in geography at the University of Minnesota and is a teaching specialist and undergraduate advisor in the University's Urban Studies Program.

Loomis has lived in Golden Valley since 1956 and has served as Mayor since 2001. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota and is currently a part-time playground paraprofessional at Meadowbrook Elementary School. 

DEC 5 IS TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING

Each year in November, homeowners receive a notice in the mail that outlines their proposed property tax for the coming year (see article on page 2). Called the Truth in Taxation notice, it lists dates for the budget hearings of the various taxing jurisdictions (county, city, school district) so property owners can participate in the process and have their questions answered.

The City of Golden Valley's 2006 Truth in Taxation hearing will be held at 6:30 pm Monday, December 5, 2005, in the City Hall Council Chambers. At this

hearing, the City Council will review the proposed budget and levy and take public input. 

I-394 Corridor Study OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, December 7, 2005
4:30-7 pm
City Hall Council Chambers

Please come and review the I-394 Corridor Study, including citizen input to date and proposed approaches to zoning in the Corridor. For more information, see the story on pages 8-9.

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BOARDS/ COMMISSIONS APPLICATIONS

The City Council is seeking citizens interested in becoming more active in their city government by volunteering to serve on one of Golden Valley's Advisory Boards and Commissions.

Advisory Boards and Commissions recommend policy to the City Council and advise the Council on a variety of diverse issues (see list below).

Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)
Meets monthly, fourth Tuesday, 7 pm.

Building Board of Review (BBR)
Meets monthly, first and third Mondays, 8 pm.

Civil Service Commission (CSC)
Meets annually and on call.

Environmental Commission (EC)
Meets monthly, fourth Monday, 7 pm.

Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF)
Meets monthly, second Monday, 6:30 pm, and requires additional time commitment for planning and working at fund-raisers.

Human Rights Commission (HRC)
Meets monthly, second Thursday, 7 pm.

Northwest Hennepin Human Services Council Advisory Commission (NHHSCAC)
Meets monthly, third Thursday, 7 pm.

Open Space and Recreation Commission (OS&RC)
Meets monthly, fourth Monday, 7 pm.

Planning Commission (PC)
Meets monthly, second and fourth Mondays, 7 pm.

You must be a resident of Golden Valley to apply. Detailed information and applications are available on the City Web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/boards.htm) or by calling Judy Nally at 763-593-3991.

Proposed City Tax Levy Shows 5.7% Increase

The increased cost of doing business and payments on the City's ongoing street reconstruction program are the main factors behind the 5.7% increase in Golden Valley's proposed 2006 City tax levy. The City Council certified the preliminary levy of \$13,267,960 in September, as required by state law, and once the preliminary levy is set it can be lowered, but not raised. Before the end of the year, the Council will hold additional meetings to take public input and approve a final budget and tax levy (see Truth in Taxation sidebar on page 1).

Each year Hennepin County prepares a Truth in Taxation notice based on proposed tax levies of various taxing jurisdictions (city, county, school, and other districts). These notices are sent to all homeowners to help them understand how their property taxes are divided amongst the taxing jurisdictions.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR PORTION

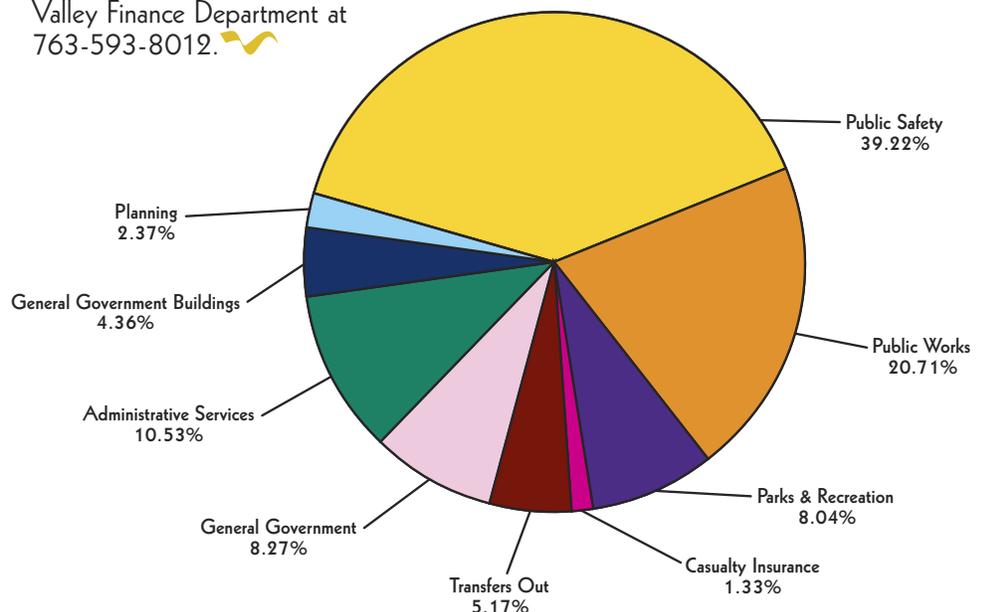
To understand the City portion of your overall proposed property tax levy, find the line on the Truth in Taxation statement that says "City of Golden Valley." The City of Golden Valley is only responsible for this portion of the statement.

Golden Valley's proposed City tax levy includes two main categories—the Bonded Debt Levy and General Operating Levy.

The **Bonded Debt Levy** pays for the principal and interest on the debt issued to finance the City's equipment purchases and street infrastructure improvements. Costs to reconstruct streets in the City's Pavement Management Program (PMP) have increased significantly over the life of the program. This total levy increased 2.1% in 2006 to pay for bonds issued annually to finance the PMP program. The Street Debt Levy pays for 80% of the project costs, and 20% is paid by assessments to benefitting properties.

The **General Operating Levy** pays for all general City operations, such as streets, police, parks, fire, and more (see pie chart). This year, significant price increases in fuel have caused a ripple effect across the board, affecting the costs of everything the City does. As a result, this total levy increased 3.1% in 2006.

The City Council is still reviewing the proposed City budget and will take public input at the December 5 Truth in Taxation hearing. The final budget and levy will be adopted at the December 20, 2005 City Council meeting. Input is welcome at these meetings or by contacting your City Council members (see page 16). If you have specific questions, please call the City of Golden Valley Finance Department at 763-593-8012.



Recent Development Spans Golden Valley

As 2005 draws to a close, several redevelopment projects spanning the width and breadth of Golden Valley are also nearing conclusion. Some had ties to the City or its Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), and others are just very visible, but all play a part in changing the face of the community.



SUNRISE ASSISTED LIVING

Northeastern Golden Valley is home to **HIDDEN LAKES**, a subdivision south of Golden Valley Rd and west of Theodore Wirth Parkway with 154 residential lots, including single-family, twin, and golf villa homes. Since the development was first approved in 1997, the City has issued a steady stream of building permits. Today 138 units are completed, 12 units are under construction, and four lots are undeveloped.

Just to the southeast, **SUNRISE**

ASSISTED LIVING of Golden Valley is the new kid on the block. Completed in summer 2005, the project features 76 senior-assisted-living units built on former HRA land at Hwy 55 and Ottawa Ave N. Residents have started to move in, but full occupancy is not anticipated until mid-2006. Call 763-522-4000 for information.

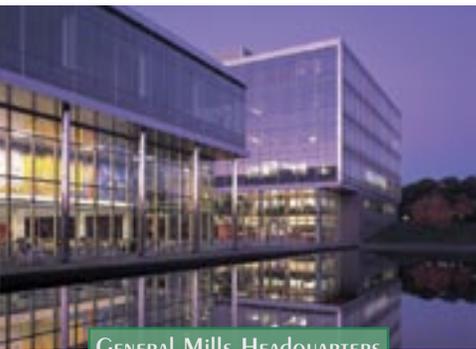
A little west and south of there are the **LAUREL TERRACE APARTMENTS**, an 86-unit market-rate apartment on Turner's Crossroad near Laurel Ave that will be completed by the end of the year. The one- to three-bedroom units rent from \$1,345 to \$2,395 per month. Call 763-545-2395 for information.

Image courtesy of James M Cooperman and Associates Architects, Inc.



LAUREL TERRACE APARTMENTS

In northwest Golden Valley, next to the Hennepin County Dispatch Center on Naper St, the **GOLDEN RIDGE SUBDIVISION** on Gettysburg Court features eight Habitat for Humanity units constructed and occupied by low- to moderate-income families. Approved by the City Council in 2004, this 17-lot subdivision has eight additional market-rate units still under construction (three are available). Call 763-544-8523 for more information.



GENERAL MILLS HEADQUARTERS

office building. The project included significant wetland improvements that provide General Mills sites for future office development on its main campus and create a new nature area on land it donated to the City of Golden Valley along Hwy 169 south of Betty Crocker Dr. Excavation at the nature center has been completed, and landscaping is expected to be completed in 2006.

RUN THE VALLEY T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

The Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF) is looking for colorful, eye-catching, and unique graphic design entries for the annual *Run The Valley* 5K/10K Walk/Run T-shirt contest. Each race participant receives a T-shirt.

There is no particular message to convey. The designer may choose content; however, either the City of Golden Valley logo or the name "Golden Valley Human Services Foundation" must appear somewhere within the design. There are no size requirements for this. The GVHSF reserves the right to add these features to the design if not included. The use of humor is not required but perfectly acceptable.

The T-shirts will be white, all cotton, long sleeve. Printing will be three-color silk-screen (two colors are acceptable if the graphic design is better suited to this format). The designer may choose the colors. There are no color requirements for the Golden Valley logo or Golden Valley Human Services Foundation lettering. Submit design in camera-ready format for use by the printer (color separations preferred). The GVHSF will handle all printing. The designer may proof the printing, if desired.

The winning design is selected arbitrarily (no ranking system is used) by consensus of GVHSF members and possibly City staff. The selected printing company will be asked for input regarding the mechanics in printing particular designs. The winning designer (or designers, if co-designed) will be awarded 10 T-shirts after printing and be acknowledged in *Golden Valley CityNews* and the *Sun-Post* newspaper. GVHSF shall have sole ownership of the winning design and

permission to reuse it when so desired.

The deadline for entries in the 2006 *Run the Valley* T-Shirt Contest is Friday, February 4, 2006.



Photo courtesy of General Mills

CITY REGULATES GARBAGE CANS

Garbage can be stinky and unsightly, particularly when you had nothing to do with creating it. And neglected refuse containers can block sidewalks and create hazards if left in the street (especially in winter). That's why cities have ordinances to regulate garbage, refuse, yard waste, and recyclables, including rules for where garbage containers can be kept and for how long.

In Golden Valley, the City Code requires residents to keep garbage containers in the garage or behind the house. Containers cannot be more than three feet away from the house, garage, or accessory structure.

Regulations also state that refuse containers cannot be placed at the curb more than 24 hours before 7 am on the scheduled pick-up day. Once the hauler has emptied the container, it must be removed from the curb and stored properly within 24 hours.

To see the complete ordinance, go to the City Web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citycode1/chapter10index.htm and click Section 10.40. Questions? Call Inspections at 763-593-8090.

Golden Valley Recycles



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

Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 26
Christmas	regular pick-up
New Year's	regular pick-up
Memorial Day	Sat, June 3
Fourth of July	Sat, July 8
Labor Day	Sat, Sept 9

Missed Pick-Ups

If your recycling is missed on Friday, call Waste Management at 952-890-1100 before noon on the following Monday.

If you have specific recycling questions, call 763-593-8030.

Please The Trees This Holiday Season

'Tis the season when going through the woods literally means going through a lot of trees—both in the form of paper and fresh greenery. If you are among the growing number who want the holidays to have less of an impact on the environment, here are some suggestions to help you see the forest through the trees.

Gift wrapping

Avoid the gift wrap trap. Instead, be creative. Consider using scarves, bandanas, posters and maps, coloring book pages, newspapers, last year's gift paper, wallpaper, fabric scraps, pictures or advertisements from magazines and catalogs, or comic pages. A present in a present can double the recipient's pleasure. Wrap a hat in a matching scarf,



a piece of jewelry in a box, cookies in a jar, picnic supplies in a tablecloth, or kitchen gifts in towels. Got gift bags? Those things nearly beg to be reused. Uninspired? If you absolutely must wrap, consider getting wrapping paper made from recycled paper.

If you're having guests over, cut up old cards for place cards or use old calendars to make a New Year's tablecloth. Put out identifiable recycling containers, so guests can recycle, and encourage

people to reuse and recycle bows, bags, and wrapping paper. And don't be shy. Point out the ways your party reduces waste and promotes recycling.

Packaging

A multitude of trees and other resources can be saved from the fate of becoming packaging if you consider packing gifts in:

- dry, popped popcorn (include a note explaining that birds can eat it)
- biodegradable starch packing peanuts
- used packing peanuts from previous gifts (clean, unwanted packing peanuts are usually accepted by packaging stores for reuse)
- crumpled ads from the newspaper



Holiday Tree

The debate continues. Christmas tree growers claim buying a fresh tree is environmentally sound because several are planted in place of each one taken and there's no plastic involved. Artificial tree sellers say hold the sleigh, a lovely fake tree saves real ones and lasts a lifetime. If you already own an artificial tree, great, reuse it every year. If you are faithful to the fresh variety, consider the following ideas.



- Use a potted Norfolk pine, fig tree, or indoor plant as a Christmas tree.
- Buy a tree rather than cutting one down in the wild.
- Use trimmed tree branches for home decorations or to make wreaths.
- After the holidays, make sure the tree gets recycled. Check with your garbage hauler for pick-up dates and costs.

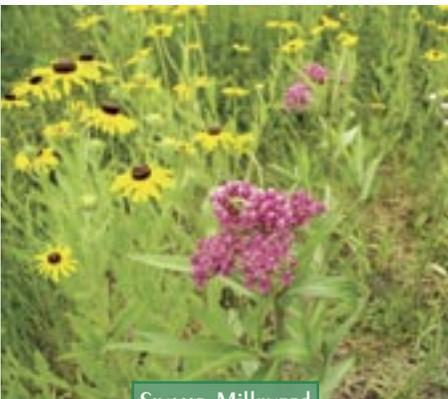
For more holiday recycling ideas, visit the City Web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/holidaywastereduction.htm).

Landscape Design Trends Favor Natural Aesthetic

Have you noticed how over the past few years traditional urban lawns and mowed turf are gradually giving way to wilder appearing gardens? These native gardens, often sprinkled with varying blooms through the seasons, signify the future of landscape design. Just as turf represented proper lawns of the past, this millennium is bearing witness to a changing aesthetic, one in which natural is better (see box). Are you ready to join the growing crowd of native gardeners?

A GARDEN FOR THE TIMES

While planting one or two native plants is a welcome addition to the urban landscape, planning an entire garden takes thought and preparation. Native gardens may appear more casual than traditional landscapes, but don't let appearances fool you. Like any other cultivated landscape, they involve understanding conditions and requirements and then some good planning, including for maintenance. Winter is



SWAMP MILKWEED

a great time to consider how to incorporate a native garden into your property come spring. your house and other structures, sidewalks, utilities, trees, other gardens, shrubs, flowers, the amount of sunlight in each area, slopes, soil types, and window views (yours and your neighbors').



Big BLUESTEM

ones shown here, that will meet your requirements (see sidebar for some resources). Be sure the perennial native plants you select are winter hardy (cold tolerant).

Watch future issues of *CityNews* for more on native gardens. For more information now, visit the City Web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/nativeplants.htm).

Is Native Better?

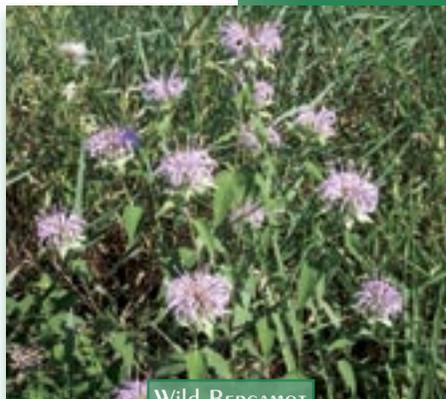
Yes! Native plants increase biodiversity and make the landscape more sustainable. They provide food and shelter for birds, insects, and other animals and are resistant to insect pests and disease outbreaks. Native plants require less fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides, which helps reduce contaminants in storm water runoff. And since many native species are perennial, the plants are self-renewing (maintenance is still necessary).

UNDERSTAND YOUR LAND

To fully understand the conditions plants will be subject to, you need to consider all facets of your property, such as the location of

Once you've selected a few locations, consider whether you want an area for entertaining and play, for wildlife, for public display, or to create privacy? How much time do you want to spend gardening? What colors do you like? What flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees do you like? How much money do you want to spend?

When you've decided your garden's location, type, and purpose, you are ready to begin researching the plants, such as the



Wild BERGAMOT

INTERNET RESOURCES FOR NATIVE GARDENS

Converting from traditional turf landscaping to native landscaping takes both planning and knowledge. Here are three sources to jump-start your research.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (www.dnr.state.mn.us/gardens/nativeplants/) offers information and inspiration for five different native gardens developed specifically for the metro region. A sample design, a conceptual drawing, and a native plant species list is provided for each of the gardens, including the evergreen shaded garden, the native shade garden, the prairie garden, the suburban garden, and the wet meadow garden.

The University of Minnesota's Sustainable Urban Landscape Information Series (SULIS) site (www.sustland.umn.edu) provides an in-depth approach to design, plant selection, implementation, and maintenance.

The US Environmental Protection Agency offers information on "green landscaping." Visit www.epa.gov/greatlakes/greenacres/wildones/ for an online booklet that covers everything from "Being Neighborly" about your design and

how to remove existing vegetation to an overview of how the United States used to look in "The Landscape That Was."



BONE

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

BROOKVIEW COMMUNITY CENTER

Supper With Santa (ages 2 and up with adult)—Fri, Dec 2, 6–7:30 pm, \$10/child; \$5/adult

Airplane Annie Show (all ages)—Wed, Dec 28, 1 pm, \$3 (adults free)

DAVIS COMMUNITY CENTER

Shoot Some Buckets (ages 7–17 with adult)—Sat, 10 am–noon, through Dec 20; Mon, 6–8 pm, through Dec 19; \$10/12-time punch pass or \$1/person at door

Holiday Open Gym (ages 5–12)—Mon–Fri, 9 am–4 pm, Dec 19–30, \$1 per activity or \$5/day at door

Parent/Tot Gym Time (ages 2–5 w/adult)—Sat, 1–3 pm, through Dec 17; Mon, 6–7:30 pm, through Dec 19; \$30/eight-time family punch pass or \$5/family at door

Parent/Child Gym Time (ages 6–12 w/adult)—Sat, 1–3 pm, through Dec 17; Fri, 6:30–8 pm, through Dec 16; \$30/eight-time family punch pass or \$5/family at door

Youth Basketball (grades 2–6)—Sat, Jan 28–March 18, afternoons, \$40 (also at Crystal Community Center)

Adult Open Gym—various dates and times throughout the year, except holidays:

- **Co-Rec Volleyball**—Tue and Thur, 8–10 pm
- **Over 40 Basketball**—Mon, 8–10 pm
- **Adult Open Basketball**—Wed, 8–10 pm; Sat, 8–10 am

Register in person, by mail, by fax (763-512-2344), or online (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us).

For more information, contact:
Park & Recreation
Brookview Community Center
 200 Brookview Parkway
 Golden Valley, MN 55426
 763-512-2345
 Monday–Friday, 8 am–5 pm

Golden Valley Skating Rinks Mean Winter Fun

In Minnesota, winter fun and skating rinks go together like peas and carrots, or turkey and stuffing. Golden Valley's skating rinks are reputed to be some of the best around, and the City's Park Maintenance crews work year-round to keep them in top shape.

Although skating is associated with cold weather, crews work on rinks all year. Each spring they take down, repair, and store the hockey rink boards, which are painted by summer seasonal staff on rainy days. In early fall, crews evaluate the skating rinks and level the surfaces. They start installing hockey rink boards in October, and according to crew leader Bob Strandquist, it takes a three-person crew an entire day to set up one rink. Crews also install hand railings and matting between shelters and rinks, put up fences on sliding hills, inspect skating lights, and prepare hockey and broomball nets.

Even in Minnesota, conditions are not always ideal for building and maintaining ice rinks. To start making ice, the crew needs temperatures to be around 0° to -10°F for a week or so and about four inches of frozen ground. The goal is to establish a six-inch ice base, which will help rinks survive most warm snaps. After that, crews build "fin-ish ice," with the goal of having rinks ready by mid-December and winter school breaks.



Depending on weather conditions, all rinks are cleaned and resurfaced Monday through Friday and cleaned Saturday mornings. Double bladed shovels may be checked out at shelter buildings. During extreme cold or warm weather, rinks and shelter buildings may be closed. Check by calling 763-512-2350 before dropping children off. "Closed" signs are also posted on park shelter doors.

If you have concerns or questions about ice conditions or rink maintenance, call Park Maintenance at 763-593-8045.

skating INFORMATION

Golden Valley's Park and Recreation Department (763-512-2345) maintains skating areas at the following parks:

Gearty	3101 Regent Ave N	H	GS	W
Hampshire	1601 Louisiana	H	GS	W
Lakeview	9300 Olympia		GS	W
Lions	7200 Harold Ave	H	GS	W
Medley	2355 Ensign Ave	H	GS	W
Scheid	1965 Toledo	H	GS	W
Wesley	8305 Wesley	H	GS	W
North Tyrol	4300 Sunset Ridge		S	
South Tyrol	Tyrol & Ortley Pass		S	
Yosemite	Woodstock & Yosemite		S	

H=Hockey rink W=Supervised warming shelter
 GS=General skating rink S=Secondary skating area

Rink Schedule

Rinks open December 17 and close February 20 (weather permitting)

Monday–Friday: 4–9 pm
 (noon–9 pm on school holidays, 10 am–9 pm on Martin Luther King Day and President's Day)

Saturday: 10 am–9 pm

Sunday: 1–9 pm

Holidays

Christmas Eve: noon–4 pm

Christmas Day: closed

New Year's Eve: noon–7 pm

New Year's Eve Skating Special: Scheid Park will remain open until 10 pm for families to enjoy winter fun activities. Hot chocolate will be provided.

Council Formalizes Rental Property Standards

Somewhere along the line, rental properties got a bad rap. Misconceptions about property owners and tenants abound (see Myths box below). Truth is, most apartments are in good or excellent condition, most owners are professional business people, and renters are community assets. To ensure all properties adhere to the same standards and provide safe housing for tenants, last February the Golden Valley City Council adopted a Multi-Dwelling Property Maintenance Code (MDPMC).



DEFINING STANDARDS

The MDPMC addresses various concerns that have come up over the years regarding interior and exterior property maintenance. Two examples are refuse and pests. Under the MDPMC, owners must keep the common areas free of trash and keep pests out of buildings and off the property. If these standards and requirements aren't met, tenants will not be allowed to live on the property.

Other specifics addressed by the MDPMC include foundations, walls, ceilings, floors, signs, windows, parking, snow removal, security, landscaping, lighting, water and heating systems, elevators, and life safety. (To review the entire MDPMC, visit www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citycode1/chapter4index.htm.)

ENFORCING STANDARDS

Development, enforcement, and management of the MDPMC is the responsibility of Angie Obert, the City's new property maintenance inspector hired August 1. "Educating owners about maintaining property values, keeping the community safe, and continuing the community's pride in its appearance is a big part of the reason the position was created," she explains.

The City Council considered a proposed enforcement program, which includes annual scheduled maintenance inspections and licensing, at its November 15 meeting. Final consideration is expected at the Council's December 2 meeting. "If adopted, this program will be based on the proactive approach of property owners," Obert continues. "They are ultimately responsible for their properties, and I look forward to being a resource for them. Owners that maintain their property and take measures to have quality tenants will benefit through lower licensing fees and less time with inspections."

For more information and updates, watch for the next issue of *CityNews* or surf to the City Web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us. For more information on property inspections and community standards, call Golden Valley Inspections Department at 763-593-8090.

Rental Myths Debunked

MYTH: People rent because they can't afford a house. **FACT:** Forty-one percent rent by choice, not because of finances.

MYTH: The dream of home ownership is universal. **FACT:** Apartment living is gaining popularity, particularly among higher-income households.

MYTH: Apartments bring traffic congestion. **FACT:** Renters tend to own fewer vehicles and use public transportation more often.

MYTH: Americans oppose higher density development. **FACT:** Higher density allows for more green space and more efficiency, both highly valued by Americans.

Source: National Multi-Housing Council (NMHC)

SENIOR STUFF

Support your Seniors Program by paying your \$5 annual dues. Newsletters are mailed to members only. Non-members can pick up newsletters at Brookview.

All activities are at Brookview Community Center and require advance registration unless otherwise noted.

Wellness and You—Dec 1: "Fun Foods For The Holidays," 1:30 pm, Dover Hills Midrise

Upcoming Trips (register early)—Dec 1-2: Wassail Dinner Concert/Old Rittenhouse Inn in Bayfield

Special Events—Dec 1, Holiday Concert With Robbinsdale City Band, Crystal Community Center, 7:30 pm; Dec 12, Annual Holiday Supper, 6 pm, register by Dec 7, \$10/person

Defensive Driving—Four-hour refresher, Dec 8, 9 am-1 pm

Blood Pressure Screening—Dec 21, 11 am-noon

Special Interest Groups Seek Participants—Bowling, Bridge, Dominoes, 500 Cards, Cribbage, Stitch & Chat, Golden Tones Chorus, Golf, Investment, Pedal Pushers, Walking Group, Brunch Bunch, Treasure Seekers, Nature of Things, Seniors In Mind, Forum & Fork, Tuesday Explorers

Five Cities Transportation Program offers rides to seniors for shopping, social activities, and senior program events. To reserve a ride, call the Five Cities office at 763-531-1259, 8 am-3 pm, Monday-Friday.

For more information, to receive the Seniors Newsletter, or to register for a program or trip, contact:

Golden Valley Seniors Program
 Brookview Community Center
 200 Brookview Parkway
 Golden Valley, MN 55426
 763-512-2339
 8 am-5 pm, Monday-Friday

GV RENTAL FACTS

Golden Valley has about 1,200 apartment rental housing units. More than half are more than 40 years old; 80% of apartments are at least 20 years old.

GOLDEN VALLEY ENVISIONS THE I-394 CORRIDOR

MANAGING CHANGE AND GROWTH THROUGH PRINCIPLES AND PLANNING

Last year *Envision Golden Valley* asked hundreds of city residents about their hopes and ideas for the future of their community. One of the core ideas that emerged was building a community that creatively connected people and places. According to the final *Envision* report, "Golden Valley's location at the axis of urban density and suburban tranquility makes us acutely aware of our connections to a greater whole. We enjoy the access afforded by the highway system that intersects our community but want to reduce its impact on our neighborhoods and natural spaces."

The Golden Valley City Council had these ideals in mind last April when it began studying the I-394 corridor along the

city's southern border. Because of its central location along a major interstate highway and its proximity to downtown Minneapolis, land in this area is in demand for a number of uses. With an eye toward future development issues, the City Council wanted to evaluate current land uses in the area and determine how to focus future development to best meet the needs and desires of the community. The I-394 Corridor Study included surveys of area businesses and residents as well as several discussions with residents and community groups. A Visual Preference Survey (VPS) offered all community members the opportunity to provide their views on

urban design, building types and architectural styles, parking treatments, setbacks, landscaping, and signage. See complete results at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/zoning/394corridor/public-input.html.

Guided by the *Envision* ideals and I-394 Corridor Study results, in October the City Council adopted the following seven planning principles (see boxes below) to manage future change and growth in the I-394 area. The City will host a public open house in December to present zoning alternatives (see page 1). For more information about the I-394 Corridor Study, contact Planning Director Mark Grimes at 763-593-8095.

PRINCIPLE NEIGHBORHOOD

Foster neighborhood-serving retail and services. Commercial development should include a variety of small independent businesses and larger enterprises that serve city residents, supplementing and broadening the current mix of commercial uses.



Photo courtesy of URS

include a variety of small independent businesses and larger enterprises that serve city residents, supplementing and broadening the current mix of commercial uses.

PRINCIPLE EMPLOYMENT

Maintain the corridor as an employment center. Jobs within the corridor help maintain Golden Valley's jobs-housing balance while sustaining commercial enterprises. Retaining living wage jobs should be a priority.

Golden Valley is one of the few cities in the metro area with more jobs than population. The 2030 Regional Development Framework (adopted by the Metropolitan Council August 24, 2005) forecasts that the number of jobs in Golden Valley will increase about 17% between 2000 and 2030, from 29,467 to 34,500.

Golden Valley's I-394 Corridor is "home" to many of these current jobs and will continue to be a desirable business home because of its strategic location and accessibility to downtown Minneapolis. The I-394 Corridor Study is planning for ways those jobs can be incorporated to enhance the community.

For example, the area between Colorado Ave S and the Soo Line Railroad has been redeveloped since 1995, going from 13 buildings and an estimated 200 employees to four buildings (Holiday Inn Express and three single-story office/warehouse buildings) housing almost four times as many employees. Respondents to the recent I-394 Corridor study resident survey gave these blocks a positive evaluation.



Image courtesy of URS/ESG

PRINCIPLE AESTHETICS

Improve the visual coherence and attractiveness of the corridor. Improvements in streetscapes, landscaped areas, open spaces, building aesthetics, and parking/service areas all contribute to a more unified and visually appealing environment, with an increased sense of identity. Buildings and other private improvements should make positive contributions to the district and the broader public realm, while public improvements should set the standard for private investment.

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PRINCIPLE CONNECTIVITY

Improve connectivity for all modes. The development of I-394 and subsequent road realignments have resulted in a discontinuous and confusing circulation system. Improvements in east-west vehicular circulation and north-south pedestrian circulation are most needed; however, roadways should be designed to be attractive and safe for all modes of travel.

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PRINCIPLE DIVERSIFICATION

Enable the corridor to evolve toward a diverse mix of land uses, including residential as well as commercial and industrial. A mix of activities, uses, and densities will help to sustain the corridor through changing economic cycles, consumer preferences, and housing trends. Mixed uses can create synergies and increase the level of pedestrian activity. Active uses (such as retail) at ground floor level can help to create activity after working hours. At the same time, the corridor should complement, not compete with, the Highway 55/Winnetka district, now the city's true downtown.



Photo courtesy of URS

PRINCIPLE ACCESS

Maintain or improve the functioning of intersections and highway interchanges. The functioning of the I-394 interchanges at Xenia and Louisiana Avenues, and other key intersections within the corridor, is critical to maintaining commercial viability and neighborhood quality of life. New development must be carefully planned, evaluated and designed so that interchanges and intersections continue to function at an adequate level.

In 1989, as Hwy 12 was becoming I-394, the City of Golden Valley took steps to deal with anticipated changes resulting from the new freeway along its southern border, specifically, that it would redirect local traffic and influence development along the corridor.

Since traffic migrates across city boundaries, Golden Valley worked with the City of St Louis Park to develop and adopt the joint Traffic Management Overlay District, which applies to land along the I-394 corridor. The goal is to keep traffic moving so no intersection in the Overlay District becomes congested during peak hour traffic.

The two cities collaboratively manage traffic in the Overlay District by requiring cooperation from developers and private property owners. For example, all proposed developments in the corridor must include a traffic plan to anticipate congestion and identify ways to moderate the traffic before the project is built. Neither Golden Valley nor St Louis Park has approved any development proposal without simultaneously addressing traffic concerns, at times using intersection improvements to keep traffic flowing.

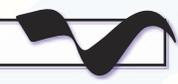
As part of the planning review process, each significant new development must prepare a traffic management plan. The plan addresses ways to reduce traffic congestion in the future if the identified intersections become congested. Car pooling, transit passes, bicycle usage, and staggered start times are just some of the tools business can use to ease traffic at rush hour. With the cooperation of many major employers, more transit options can be developed for the corridor.

PRINCIPLE INTEGRATION

Maximize integration rather than separation of land uses, where appropriate. Many land uses can benefit from increased integration with one another, including neighborhood-serving retail, multi-family and senior housing, offices, and low-impact services. Other land uses, such as auto-oriented commercial or industrial uses, can benefit from integration with similar uses, but need to be buffered from residential neighborhoods.



Photo courtesy of URS



I-394 CORRIDOR PRINCIPLES AND PLANNING

urban design, building types and architectural styles, parking treatments, setbacks, landscaping, and signage. See complete results at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/zoning/394corridor/public-input.html.

Guided by the *Envision* ideals and I-394 Corridor Study results, in October the City Council adopted the following seven planning principles (see boxes below) to manage future change and growth in the I-394 area. The City will host a public open house in December to present zoning alternatives (see page 1). For more information about the I-394 Corridor Study, contact Planning Director Mark Grimes at 763-593-8095.

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Photo courtesy of URS

integration with similar uses, but need to be buffered from residential neighborhoods.

PRINCIPLE AESTHETICS

Preference and attractiveness elements in streetscapes, public spaces, building facades, and service areas all contribute to a safe and visually appealing environment. Other private improvements enhance the broader public realm, and encourage investment.



PRINCIPLE DIVERSIFICATION

Enable the corridor to evolve toward a diverse mix of land uses, including residential as well as commercial and industrial. A mix of activities, uses, and densities will help to sustain the corridor through changing economic cycles, consumer preferences, and housing trends. Mixed uses can create synergies and increase the level of pedestrian activity. Active uses (such as retail) at ground floor level can help to create activity after working hours. At the same time, the corridor should complement, not compete with, the Highway 55/Winnetka district, now the city's true downtown.



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GV Cops Well Equipped

Equipment is another necessary component of a well-prepared police force.

From their uniforms and specially designed shoes to the equipment they carry to assure they can take charge of most any situation, the estimated \$5,000 it takes to equip a new Golden Valley police officer is well worth the investment, says Deputy Police Chief Roger Johnson.

Though not all trade secrets are revealed here, the picture below of Officer Kyle Toavs outlines what each of Golden Valley's 30 full-time police officers carry when they are on duty.



Officer Training Is Core Of Community Safety

Since police are often the first responders to local public safety issues, it's in the City's best interest to make significant investments in their training. Residents here can rest assured that Golden Valley's Police Department (GVPD) has the best trained officers around.

RECRUITMENT

The City invests considerable time and training in each police officer, so finding the right candidates is essential. Most of us, at this point, may be unconcerned about what our third grade teacher thought of us. But if you want to be a Golden Valley cop, you should be. Not only do applicants have to pass a background check that includes interviews with authorities from as far back as their middle school years, they also must possess an associate's degree (preferably a bachelor's) in criminal justice or a related field and pass both physical and psychological examinations.

"The process before hire is extensive" says Deputy Police Chief Roger Johnson. "Applicants go through a series of interviews and tests to help us establish a civil service hiring list. When a position opens, we pull from the top of that list to get the best possible candidates."

GVPD Field Training

New officer candidates undergo a minimum 16-week training program that covers:

- GVPD policies and procedures and Minnesota statutes
- Golden Valley geography
- appropriate use of force
- report writing
- crime investigation and how to handle and process evidence

Not every new recruit is successful. "What makes the GVPD work so well is that the officers are the best trained because of skills, their knowledge level, and their ability," says Patrol Officer Jeff Johnson, a former field trainer.

Moving Up The Ranks

The reputation that brings good candidates to the GVPD is the same environment that keeps officers. Advancing from patrol officer to sergeant requires at least a bachelor's degree. Currently, 13 of the 30 officers in the GVPD have a bachelor's degree, and seven have master's degrees.

For more information on the GVPD's hiring process, contact Deputy Police Chief Roger Johnson at 763-593-8070.

Safety Gifts Show You Care All Year Long

Safety gifts provide security year-round and may actually be the gift of life. With gift giving season just around the corner, the Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) suggests adding safety gifts to your list. Here are a few to consider.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS, such as *Dragons for Tea: Fire Safety for Kids (and Dragons)*, *I Am Fire* (Hello Reader! Science Series), and *Arthur's Fire Drill* (Arthur Adventure Series) are a hit with the younger crowd. Check book and department stores. Price: all ranges.

CPR (CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION) TRAINING is recommended for at least one person in every household. The Minneapolis Red Cross Chapter (www.mplsredcross.org or 612-871-7676) offers CPR and other safety classes close to Golden Valley. Price: about \$50.

ESCAPE LADDERS allow for escape when fire and smoke make normal escape routes impossible. Choose ladders with standoffs to hold rungs away from the house for a secure toehold. Standard 15-foot ladders serve most two story homes; 25-foot ladders serve most three-story homes. Check hardware, department, or home improvement stores. Price: \$40–\$85.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS (see sidebar)

LIGHTED OR REFLECTIVE OUTDOOR ADDRESS NUMERALS can help ensure homes are readily located by professionals in an emergency. For bonus thoughtfulness, offer to install them in plain sight in the front of the house. Price: \$1.50–\$300.

RECHARGEABLE FLASHLIGHTS are recommended for each bedroom. Look for models that remain plugged in and turn on if the power goes out. Remind children these flashlights are not for play but should remain plugged in and prepared for an emergency. Check hardware, home improvement, and camping supply stores. Price: \$10–\$30.

SMOKE DETECTORS are effective life-saving devices that should be installed on every level of a home, near sleeping areas, and in sleeping areas. To meet specific needs, consider one that provides a night light or one that talks. Lithium batteries, which last up to four times longer than regular batteries, are also useful. Price: \$10–\$30.

HAZARDOUS ENVIRONMENT DETECTORS can help keep a home safe by monitoring for carbon monoxide, radon, combustible gas, formaldehyde (allergy), or asthma chemical triggers. At the minimum, the GVFD recommends installing one carbon monoxide detector on every level of the home away from sources of carbon monoxide. Price: \$40 and up.

LIGHT SENSORS that automatically turn outdoor lights on when it's dark make a great safety gift (and also make a home easier to find in an emergency). Best of all, these handy little devices are easy to install. Price: \$8 and up.

WEATHER ALERT RADIOS can help keep loved ones safe during inclement weather. Consider one that activates during an emergency weather forecast to provide important information. These are particularly appreciated by boaters and campers. Price: \$19.95 and up.

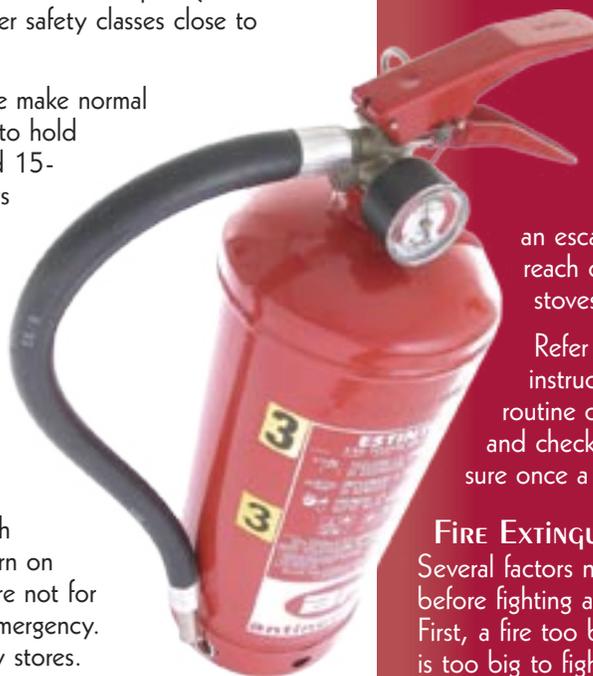
POWER STRIPS help banish dangerous extension cords, which are intended for short-term use only (such as holiday lights). They also provide the gift of more outlets and protect against power surges. Remember to choose one that is UL approved. Price: \$7 and up.

SAFE HOMES HAVE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Fire extinguishers are necessities in every safe home—they can keep small fires from getting bigger or give you the opportunity to open a path of escape.

To deal with all common burning materials fires, the GVFD recommends buying a professional extinguisher (labeled ABC), five pounds or larger, with a metal valve assembly. Check hardware or home improvement stores. Price: \$25–\$40, depending on size. Be sure to install fire extinguishers in a readily accessible location near an escape route, above the reach of children, and away from stoves and heating appliances.

Refer to the manufacturer's instructions for information on routine care, inspections, service, and checking the extinguisher's pressure once a month.



FIRE EXTINGUISHER USE

Several factors need to be considered before fighting a fire with an extinguisher. First, a fire too big for one extinguisher is too big to fight. Second, be sure you use the extinguisher without putting the fire between yourself and the exit. Finally, make sure someone is evacuating the building and calling 911 (you can't do both). If all these factors are considered, proceed by standing six to eight feet from the fire, then make a **PASS**:

P=Pull the pin to unlock the extinguisher's operating level.

A=Aim low, pointing the extinguisher's nozzle at the base of the fire.

S=Squeeze the lever below the handle to discharge the extinguisher. Release the lever to stop the discharge.

S=Sweep the discharge from side to side at the base of the fire until fire is out. If it reignites, make another PASS.

If you have questions about selecting or using fire extinguishers, contact Fire Education Specialist Sarah Larson at 763-593-3977.

KNOW YOUR WINTER ORDINANCES

PARKING ON PUBLIC STREETS

Parking is not allowed on public streets after a snowfall of at least two inches until snow has been plowed to the curb line.

After a snowfall of at least two inches, vehicles in violation are cited by patrolling police. Vehicles found to be obstructing traffic or snow plows, and those still in violation after 24 hours, may be towed. This winter, stay informed of weather forecasts and move your vehicle from the streets whenever snow is in the forecast.



SNOW REMOVAL FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY

Removal of snow and ice from private property to a roadway, across a roadway, or onto a sidewalk or adjacent property is prohibited by City ordinance. Infractions are misdemeanors, subject to fines and prosecution. Snow removed from your driveway or parking lot (whether you do it or hire someone to do it) must be kept off roadways, sidewalks, and adjacent property. If you or your plowing contractor have questions regarding this issue, contact Tom Klatt, Public Works Maintenance Manager, at 763-593-3981.

PLOW DAMAGE

The City is not liable for damages to obstacles in the road right-of-way (irrigation heads, landscaping, etc). These obstacles should either be removed from the right-of-way or marked clearly so plow drivers can avoid them. Mailboxes are repaired or replaced only if the plow makes direct contact. Sod damage can be reported to Public Works at 763-593-8030. Damages to sod are repaired each spring with black dirt and seed or sod.

City Crews Prepare For Winter

The National Weather Service is predicting that this Minnesota winter will be warmer than usual with slightly above average snowfall. Golden Valley's Public Works Department is gearing up as usual for whatever the season may bring.

Around mid-September, Public Works crews began changing filters, checking operations, and adding snow removal accessories to all the snow-related pieces of City equipment, transforming them for winter duty.

Once the equipment is ready, Golden Valley's Public Works maintenance crew is prepared to take care of 120 miles of city streets and about 31 miles of sidewalk every time it snows. Plowing starts after snow accumulates to two inches or more and stops falling. To keep traffic moving when snowfall continues for long periods, crews focus on main arterial routes and through

streets that connect neighborhoods to state and county roads. Plowing stops if strong winds and drifting cause unsafe conditions and resumes when conditions improve. Public Works always has a mechanic on duty whenever crews are plowing snow.

SNOW PLOW SAFETY

To help snow plow operators, residents should:

- reduce speed and keep a minimum distance of 50 feet from trucks plowing and spreading sand (frequent backing is necessary, and rear visibility is very limited)
- never drive into a snow cloud or pass vehicles while they're plowing
- stay away from the end of a driveway when a snowplow is approaching
- keep sleds and toys away from the street when they're not being used
- don't build snow forts in the snow piles on the boulevard
- keep garbage cans and recycle bins in the driveway and off roadways and sidewalks if it snows on collection days (see sidebar on page 4 for details)

If you have questions about snow plowing or winter safety, call Public Works Street Maintenance Supervisor Lyle Johnson at 763-593-8081, or go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/streets/winterstreets.htm.

Metro SNOW STATS

(Source: National Weather Service)

SEASON	INCHES OF SNOW
2004-05	25.5
2003-04	66.3
2002-03	35
2001-02	66
2000-01	75.8

ICE CONTROL

Depending on the existing weather conditions, sanding crews use a variation of salt/sand-salt mixture on icy areas. Priority areas are treated first, and all other areas are done when time permits. Priority areas include:

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

City Completes 2005 PMP, Prepares For 2006

With winter setting in, the City of Golden Valley reviews another successful year of its Pavement Management Program (PMP) and continues preparations for the 2006 PMP.

Work on the 2005 PMP was completed in mid-October as Palda & Sons, the City's contractor for the project, finished reconstructing approximately 3.6 miles of streets throughout the city. Many of these streets are in the Stockman Park area of northern Golden Valley, including Noble Ave between Culver Rd and 34th Ave N, which is the northern border of the city.

Other improvements in this project included completion of sidewalk connections on Noble Ave and Florida Ave S (between Laurel Ave and Wayzata Blvd)—yet another step in making Golden Valley safer for pedestrians. In addition, crews replaced the Dakota Ave S water main that had a significant number of breaks.



PAVING THE BASE COURSE

Photo courtesy of Vaile Radamus

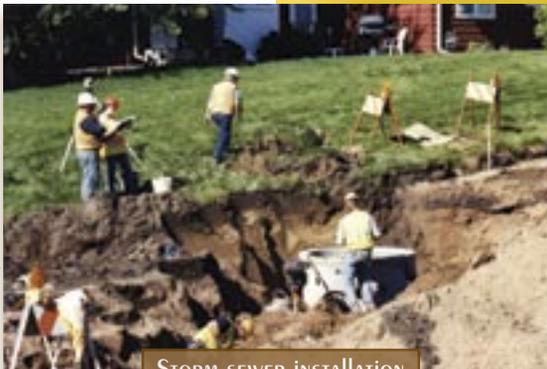
For 2006 the PMP moves to the Sweeney Lake area, where crews will reconstruct residential streets on the west side of the lake just south of Duluth St/Golden Valley Rd and east of Highway 100. The preliminary design of the project included neighborhood meetings to discuss the water quality of Sweeney Lake as well as measures that could be implemented during the street project that could help protect the lake.

The public hearing for the 2006 Pavement Management Project is scheduled for February 2006, with construction scheduled to begin in spring. For more information about Golden Valley's PMP, contact Public Works at 763-593-8030.

MEDLEY PARK TRAIL CLOSED

The City has closed the trail and bridge at the northwest corner of Medley Park so staff can complete storm water

improvements throughout the winter. The trail is scheduled to reopen in the spring. Scheduled improvements include stabilizing the creek banks, adding and replacing storm water structures, and landscaping



STORM SEWER INSTALLATION

Photo courtesy of Vaile Radamus

a native buffer around the pond. In addition, the pedestrian bridge and a portion of the paved trail will also be replaced to resolve structural concerns. For more information contact the Golden Valley Environmental Coordinator at 763-593-8046.

Adopt Your Neighborhood Fire Hydrant

Looking for a convenient way to be active in the well-being of your community? Consider grabbing a shovel.

The Golden Valley Fire Department is seeking help to keep the fire hydrants in your neighborhood clear of snow. A six-foot clear space around the circumference of the hydrant will help reduce the time it takes firefighters to hook up hoses if a fire occurs in your neighborhood. The best time to shovel out a hydrant is after the streets are plowed, before snow accumulates and freezes.

Golden Valley Community Pride, a local organization that works to beautify the city by mowing public rights-of-way and planting flowers there in the summer, has adopted fire hydrant shoveling as its winter project. If you want to help, call Don Brown, citizen volunteer, at 763-545-9518.

public works

MUTUAL Aid

After October storms whipped through the north metro suburbs, the City of Golden Valley responded with other Cities and Counties by sending equipment and Public Works staff to help neighboring communities with clean-up. Here Golden Valley's Kevin Jaax and Matt Jefferson use the City's 360 excavator to help Brooklyn Park Public Works staff remove brush from downed trees.



TEST YOUR TRAFFIC SIGN SENSE

Signs keep us on track, so to speak, when we're out driving (and walking and biking). So, while the article at right gave some hints, take a look at the signs below and determine how savvy you are about traffic signs. Answers will be posted on the City Web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us) and in the next *CityNews*.



Strict Standards Govern Traffic Signs

Driving is a complex task. Motorists must operate their vehicles, observe the road and its environment, and pay attention to other traffic. Add moods, psychological conditions, and physical distractions (cell phones, lattes, your shaver or mascara wand), and traffic signs can too often be totally ignored. Traffic engineers know this, which is why specific standards govern both the appearance and placement of traffic signs.

Sign Color and Shape

Traffic signs use both color and shape to elicit responses. Red, for example, requires strong action by motorists (stop, yield, do not enter, no left turn, no parking, etc). Orange indicates something unusual (a construction or maintenance activity), yellow is for warning (a curve, crossing, or road condition), and fluorescent yellow-green is reserved for schools and pedestrians. Blue, brown, and green signs are primarily related to information or guidance, and plain old black and white signs are regulatory.

Stop signs are the only eight-sided signs, and yield signs are the only triangles with the point down. Diamond signs are for warning, and rectangles are primarily for regulatory or guide signs with some warnings. Special shapes are used for railroad crossings (circle), no passing (pennant), and school signs (pentagon).

Most people believe symbol signs are primarily used for universal understanding. It's true people who don't read English or can't read at all can use symbol signs, but equally important is the major benefit of recognition. A diamond-shaped sign with a symbol of a traffic signal and an arrow pointing up gets instant recognition, while the sign with the words "signal ahead" must be looked at and read by the motorist. Thus, motorists who don't take time to read a sign may see a symbol and recognize the need to take action.

Sign Installation CRITERIA

Engineering standards indicate that signs should only be installed when they will:

- meet a need
- command attention
- convey a clear meaning
- command respect
- give adequate time for response

Golden Valley, other cities, and most road authorities are very careful to install signs only when they meet these five criteria.

Sign Placement

It is also important that traffic signs be installed only where needed (see box). Studies also caution that too many signs will overload the motorist's attention and result in most signs being ignored.

For example, if a stop sign is installed where motorists don't believe there is a need, they won't respect the sign and violations will result. A sign that says "watch for children" tells motorists only that someone thinks there are children in the area, and it seldom gets any type of response from motorists. The City has had residents request signs with similar legends, only to find that such a sign is already posted on their block. "Children at play" and similar signs have lost their credibility with motorists because they do not meet the five criteria (see box).

If a Golden Valley resident requests a sign and the City does not install it, it's likely the sign did not meet the criteria to obtain the respect and adherence of motorists. This does not mean Golden Valley residents should not be concerned about traffic safety and contact the City if they feel there is a problem; it only means that installing a sign is much more than just erecting a post and mounting a piece of metal.

If you have questions about sign placement in Golden Valley, contact City Engineer Jeff Oliver at 763-593-8030.

Home Improvements Move Inside For Season

With people gravitating towards indoor comforts as winter settles in, it's little wonder eyes turn to interior improvements. According to Golden Valley Building Inspector Jerry Frevel, kitchen and bath projects top most people's remodeling lists, and even small projects take a little planning and perhaps a permit, or two, or three.

PERMIT REQUIRED?

"Regardless of cost, if the project is limited to removing or replacing cabinets, floors, or counter tops, no permit is required," says Frevel. "If the project moves or alters any plumbing fixture, sheet rock, walls, or if any ventilation work is proposed, a building permit is required."

A bigger issue is that a project may require four separate permits: building, electrical, mechanical, and plumbing.

An **electrical permit** (and inspection) is needed if the project involves any electrical wiring. Permit applications are sold by the City of Golden Valley for \$2, but permits are issued and inspections are done by the State Electrical Inspector (763-241-2102).

A **mechanical permit** covers installation, repair, or remodeling of fireplaces, heating systems, and air conditioners. Permit costs vary depending on the cost of the job.

A **plumbing (sewer) permit** covers installation or replacement of plumbing for water closets, bathtubs, sinks, floor drains, water heaters, showers, garbage disposals, back-flow preventers for underground sprinkler systems, and dishwashers. Permits are also required if you hire a plumber to make connections to the City's sanitary sewer, storm sewer, water main, or any repairs to your sanitary service. Permit costs vary depending on the type of work. Frevel strongly suggests residents consult the State Plumbing Code (www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/arule/4715/) for specific requirements.

PREPARING A PLAN

If your project requires a permit, it also requires a plan. A kitchen or bathroom plan must be done to 1/4" scale and include:

- location of existing, new, or altered walls
- location of fixtures and appliances
- location of ventilation (required if room has no window that opens)
- location of all smoke detectors
- placement of windows to be added, removed, or replaced
- proposed finished ceiling height
- wall, floor, and ceiling finish materials

Further, each bathroom must have a window that opens or a powered exhaust fan that vents outside, and all plumbing components must be listed and approved.

The City has several helpful handouts to make sure your project gets off to a good start. Before getting too far into your project, contact the Golden Valley Inspections Department (763-593-8090) to ask about permits or plan requirements. 

Energy Efficient Appliances

If new appliances are part of your project, check out **ENERGY STAR**. This government-backed program lends its approval to appliances that meet strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and US Department of Energy.

According to **ENERGY STAR**, energy-efficient choices can save families about a third on their energy bill. In 2004, Americans saved \$10 billion with the help of these appliances. For more information on the **ENERGY STAR** program, go to www.energystar.gov.



PLANNING BOOSTS KITCHEN PROJECTS

At parties, everyone ends up in the kitchen. That's why kitchens, according to *Realtor Magazine*, are the number one consideration of potential home buyers (followed by bathrooms).

Whether you're concerned about resale value or just want a place for family and friends to gather, your kitchen remodeling project will get a boost from these tips.

To accommodate extensive remodeling, set up a temporary kitchen with water access and a place to keep foods cold and heat up meals. Crock pots, electric frying pans, and microwaves serve well when old appliances are being replaced.

Take care not to damage walls as old cabinets are removed. Counters, cabinets, and floors you plan to reuse should be treated with care, too.

Shut off utilities before work begins, and remove anything that isn't nailed or screwed down.

If you need to rent a dumpster, make arrangements early. If old cabinets are to be reused in a workshop or donated to charity, have a place ready to put them.

Turn off individual valves for gas and water before removing any major appliances. If there are no shut-off valves, turn off the main valve. The main gas valve is usually located near the gas meter. Remember, once you turn off the gas to the whole house, ALL pilot lights will have to be relit.

If you plan to upgrade your electrical system and add new outlets and fixtures, turn off circuits to the area in which you will be working. In older homes, wiring modifications may confuse which circuits or fuses control specific areas. Turn off the main power or get professional assistance if you are unclear.

For added safety, tape the breakers so they won't accidentally be turned on.

For more information on remodeling in Golden Valley, watch the next issue of *CityNews* for details on the annual Home Remodeling Fair. 



This year, join the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) in a unique approach to the Toys for Tots donation effort.

For the eleventh consecutive year, the GVPD will lead regional law enforcement agencies in a toy drive that culminates in a loud, colorful parade. After the last collection day, police from as many as 20 departments load their police cruisers with toys and meet at the GVPD. Then, lights blazing, they caravan over to the KARE 11 Toys for Tots drop-off site. In past years the effort has garnered thousands of toys.

Between December 1 and 19 (at 3 pm), bring new, unwrapped toys to the GVPD at 7800 Golden Valley Road (open 24 hours a day). Don't forget gifts for older kids and teens. For more information, contact Sergeant Steve Johnson at 763-512-2505.



OFFICER JIM ROBERTS INSTRUCTS LOCAL YOUTH AT SAFETY CAMP.

Support Your Local Crime Prevention Fund

Safety and security are crucial factors in healthy communities. Community partnerships are a vital component in our police department's success in keeping crime low in Golden Valley. The Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund provides essential financial support for a variety of crime prevention and safety programs. Run by volunteers, this private, nonprofit organization is supported by Golden Valley businesses and residents dedicated to creating and maintaining strong community involvement.

Several of Golden Valley's crime prevention programs are youth oriented, including Safety Camp (a two-day safety education program for second, third, and fourth graders), Junior Safety Camp (day-long safety education for four-, five-, and six-year-olds), CounterACT (a drug and violence prevention program for fifth graders), and Law, Crime, and Safety (a safety and citizenship curriculum for fifth graders). Other crime prevention programs include the Senior Safety Fair, National Night Out, Neighborhood Watch, and the I-394 Virtual Block Club. The Crime Fund also provides rewards for information in serious criminal cases.

Contributions are the Crime Fund's only source of revenue. Please consider a tax-deductible contribution. For more information, contact the Crime Fund at 763-593-8054 or cpfund@ci.golden-valley.mn.us.

Nancy Azzam, President,
Golden Valley Crime
Prevention Fund

City of
Golden Valley

763-593-8000

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Notice: To retain cost-effective rates, postal regulations require us to mail to complete carrier routes, even if they are beyond city borders. We apologize to non-Golden Valley residents who get this newsletter unsolicited.