

# Golden Valley 2006

## CITYNEWS

### City Seeks Citizen Input About Plans For Parks

Golden Valley citizens have enjoyed a high level of park and recreation services since 1948, when the City acquired 26 acres of land and launched its park and recreation system. With a revised Comprehensive Plan due in 2008 (see sidebar), the City Council is focusing this year on developing a vision for City park and recreation facilities. That means studying what's there now and getting community input to prioritize needs and desires in balance with current and projected resources.

Some major considerations include changing demographics, use of aging facilities, limited land, increasing environmental awareness and mandates, interest in expansion offset by finite resources and need to maintain existing facilities, cooperative agreements for non-City facilities, and the cost of doing nothing.

In August and September, the City's Open Space and Recreation Commission will host four information meetings (see box) to involve citizens in planning for the future of its park and recreation facilities. The City will also solicit citizen input via a survey to be published in the next issue of *CityNews*, a City-wide phone survey later this year, and a survey of youth athletic association leaders. Input received will help the City Council make future decisions.

If you have questions about parks planning or the upcoming information meeting or surveys, contact Director of Park and Recreation Rick Jacobson at 763-512-2342. 🐾

#### *Parks Planning Information Meetings*

**Tuesday, August 8**  
5-6:30 pm  
Brookview Park Large Shelter

**Thursday, August 10**  
5-6:30 pm  
Hampshire Park

**Thursday, September 21**  
5-6:30 pm  
Wesley Park

**Tuesday, September 26**  
5-6:30 pm  
Scheid Park

### City To Update Comp Plan

Every metro City has a Comprehensive Plan to provide a blueprint for long-term land use, with chapters on Land Use, Transportation, Waste Water, Water Supply, Storm Water Management, Housing, and Park and Recreation.

State law requires Cities to revise these plans every 10 years for adoption by their City Councils. The Metropolitan Council reviews these plans to determine if they conform to metropolitan system plans, are consistent with its other adopted plans, and are compatible with each other.

Local governments may not implement measures that would allow development that conflicts with the approved Comprehensive Plan. When a community changes its Comprehensive Plan, the Metropolitan Council must review the amendment before it can go into effect.

Copies of the City's current Comp Plan can be viewed at City Hall and at the Golden Valley Library. 🐾

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## NUISANCE CALL ORDINANCE PROTECTS PUBLIC

If you've ever lived next to the neighborhood party house or junk cars, you understand the nature of nuisance violations. Many nuisance calls received by the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) involve issues that can affect the quality of life in neighborhoods and break down neighborhood camaraderie.

To help diminish the number of nuisance calls to the GVPD, the Golden Valley City Council enacted the repeat nuisance call service fee ordinance 10.85. Its purpose is to protect public safety, health, and welfare and to prevent and abate repeat police service response for nuisance violations.

Nuisance violations are any activity, conduct, or condition occurring on private property that unreasonably annoys, injures, or endangers the safety, health, morals, or comfort of any member of the public. This may include but is not limited to loud parties or noise disturbances, barking dogs or dogs at large, disorderly conduct or public nuisance, prostitution, gambling, firearms or dangerous weapons, controlled substance and drug paraphernalia, curfew violations (allowed by the property owner or occupant), or junk vehicles (allowed by the property owner or occupant after the 14-day grace period has passed).

If the City has responded to three or more nuisance violations of the same or similar nature within a 365-day period, it may impose a \$250 service fee on the owner or occupant of the property.

To read the complete ordinance, go to [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citycode1/chapter10index.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citycode1/chapter10index.htm) and scroll down to 10.85. If you have questions regarding the repeat nuisance call service fee ordinance, please contact Sergeant Kelly Blad at 763-593-8071 or [kblad@ci.golden-valley.mn.us](mailto:kblad@ci.golden-valley.mn.us).

# New Voting Technology Introduced

When voters go to the polls this year for the September 12 primary election and the November 7 general election, they'll have the opportunity to use new voting machines designed to allow voters with disabilities to mark their ballots independently and privately. By implementing this new Assistive Voting Technology (AVT), Golden Valley joins the rest of Minnesota in complying with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), a federal law enacted in 2002 that changed national standards for voting systems.

Because the State of Minnesota requires that all elections have a paper ballot as a paper trail for precise election audits, all voters receive the same paper ballot whether they will vote using an ink pen or an AVT ballot marking device. Minnesota's certified AVT is called the ES&S AutoMARK, which allows voters who are blind, visually impaired, or who have physical or mobility difficulties to mark their ballots using a touch screen, touch pad, or sip/puff tube. Voters will be able to review and approve their votes before the AutoMARK marks their ballots.

After voting, all voters insert their paper ballots into the ES&S M-100 precinct ballot counter that has been used by Hennepin County since 2000.

Each polling place in Golden Valley will have the AutoMARK ready for use on Election Day and for absentee voting at City Hall. The City will provide headphones for the AutoMARK machine, but voters are welcome to bring their own headphones, sip/puff tube, or other devices to assist them.

The AutoMARK will be available for public demonstrations at City Hall July 17 through September 8, 8 am to 4:30 pm.

The new equipment was funded by federal and state monies allotted to Hennepin County through HAVA. The City will fund ongoing maintenance and supplies.

If you have questions about the new AVT equipment, or if you would like a demonstration, contact the city clerk at 763-593-8010.



## election TASK FORCE

The Golden Valley Election Task Force will host an open house Monday, September 25, from 7–9 pm, in the City Hall Council Conference Room to hear community input regarding election issues. Come and learn about elections, vote using the new AutoMARK (see article above), and enjoy some refreshments. Children are welcome.

The City Council formed the Election Task Force in March 2006 to look at the City election process as it pertains to even/odd year elections, two-year/four-year mayoral term, Council salaries, a possible City primary election, the process for filling vacancies on the Council, a code of ethics for candidates, and other topics. The Task Force will present its recommendations to the City Council by November 2006. If you have questions or comments about the Election Task Force, contact City Clerk Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010 or [svirnig@ci.golden-valley.mn.us](mailto:svirnig@ci.golden-valley.mn.us).

# Putt Up For Charity At 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic

Charity begins at the golf course, so grab your clubs and join the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF) at the 2006 Golden Valley Golf Classic, set for Friday, September 15, at Brookview Golf Course. The GVHSF hosts the annual event to benefit local charities, and it distributes 100% of funds raised to causes directly serving the Golden Valley community (see sidebar).

## Two Ways To Participate

If you consider yourself a player, sign up for the tournament and begin a day of fun with an 8:30 am shotgun start. The fee for foursomes is \$280 before August 1 or \$320 after, which includes fees, cart, continental breakfast, lunch, and a chance to win prizes.

If you're more of a promoter, you can support the GVHSF and this event in several ways.

- Corporate Sponsor (\$1,000)
- Golf Hole Sponsor (\$500)
- Prizes and Awards: Contributions of cash, merchandise, and in-kind items or gift certificates are welcome for hole contests, prizes, and drawings at the conclusion of the tournament.

All sponsors will be acknowledged in pre- and post-tournament publicity.

Last year's event drew 92 golfers from Golden Valley and the surrounding area who, with corporate and individual sponsors, helped the Golf Classic raise \$8,838 for local human service organizations. For more information about the Golf Classic or the GVHSF, contact staff liaison Jeanne Fackler at 763-512-2340 or [jfackler@ci.golden-valley.mn.us](mailto:jfackler@ci.golden-valley.mn.us).



## GV FOUNDATION

### Taking Funding Applications

The Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF), which is comprised of community volunteers, helps fund several nonprofit agencies that serve Golden Valley residents in need (see sidebar). In 2006, the Foundation contributed \$75,000.

The deadline for 2007 funding applications is August 31 at 4:30 pm. The Foundation will review funding requests and allocate available funds using the following guidelines:

- The services must not be duplicated by a level of government.
- The service provided is for Golden Valley residents at a time of crisis.
- The service must include cooperation or collaboration between organizations.
- Foundation funding should be a "last resort" source for funding the services.
- The organization should use the funds granted by the Foundation to serve Golden Valley citizens.
- Funding shall be granted to human service organizations and not to an individual or individuals.
- Funding will not be granted to any organization licensed in the City of Golden Valley for lawful gambling operations.

Pick up applications at City Hall or Brookview Community Center. If you want more information or would like to make a tax deductible contribution, call 763-512-2340.

## GVHSF GIVES Local Support

The Golden Valley Human Services Foundation helps fund several nonprofit agencies that serve Golden Valley residents in need.

- *Community Mediation Services* provides residents and businesses with respectful, confidential, and accessible mediation services.
- *Courage Center* provides rehabilitation services that empower people with physical disabilities to reach for their full potential in every aspect of life.
- *Crisis Connection* provides mental health telephone counseling to people with personal and family problems and crisis.
- *Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery* provides shelter care for children up to age six for families dealing with stress or crisis that need time away from children to stabilize themselves. Advocates also help the family find resources.
- *Home Free Domestic Assault Intervention Project* responds to victims 24 hours a day by phone or via home or hospital visit to offer support and information, including assistance in court proceedings.
- *Northwest Suburban Dinner At Your Door* provides nourishing meals to homebound people unable to afford a home-cooked meal.
- *Northwest YMCA Youth Outreach Program* helps troubled youth by working to identify problems before they escalate to a crisis level.
- *PRISM* offers emergency and supplemental food, financial assistance, clothing, senior transportation, and case load work to low-income residents.
- *Senior Community Services HOME Northwest* helps Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and New Hope seniors with home maintenance.
- *Senior Community Services OUT-REACH* helps seniors in suburban Hennepin County remain independent by linking them with a broad range of services and programs. Staff meets with seniors (and often families) in their own homes to explore available options.

## IT'S A MESS! IT'S A MIRAGE! NO! IT'S MIGHTY TIDY DAY!

Unload your unsightly messes and be a community super hero at Golden Valley's third annual Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day Saturday, October 14, 8 am–1 pm, at Brookview Park (south of Hwy 55 at Winnetka Ave).

Golden Valley's Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day provides a monitored site to dispose of items residents no longer use, that cannot be donated, and that can litter homes and yards and become a nuisance. Old mattresses and sofas, broken bicycles, ancient appliances, unwanted tires, and outdated electronics (computers and televisions) are all accepted. Hazardous waste (used motor oil, asbestos, cleaning solvents, pool chemicals, etc) are not. Sorry.

To drop off your mentionables at this event, you must be a Golden Valley resident (proof of residency will be required at the entrance). Fees apply.

Watch the September/October CityNews and the City Web site ([www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us)) for more information on Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day.

For more information on any of Golden Valley's numerous recycling programs, visit the City Web site at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/RecyclingPrograms.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/RecyclingPrograms.htm).

## 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
Labor Day	Sat, Sept 9
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 25
Christmas	regular pick-up
New Year's '07	Sat, Jan 6
Memorial Day '07	Sat, June 2
Fourth of July '07	Sat, July 7

### 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.

# Composting Reduces Waste, Improves Soils

Yard and food waste, according to [howtocompost.org](http://howtocompost.org), contributes about 30% of the waste stream in the United States. Composting leaves, grass clippings, and select food wastes not only increases organic soil matter and soil nutrients, it also reduces unnecessary contributions to national landfills. Here's some information to get started.

## COMPOSTING 101

The idea behind composting is simple: encourage organic materials to break down quickly to enrich soil and naturally aid plant growth. For composting to really work, five factors must be present.

- 1. Free Space.** Compost needs free space. To keep the compost from compacting, add materials like straw, woods chips, grass clippings, etc.
- 2. Water.** Add enough water so the compost is damp but not soggy.
- 3. Small Bites.** Keep plant material two inches in size or less. Larger pieces compost very slowly.
- 4. Food (or nutrients).** There's a little chemistry involved here. The breakdown of the compost is effected by the carbon-nitrogen ratio (30 parts carbon to one part nitrogen). Because most plant material is high in carbon and low in nitrogen, composts often benefit from the addition of a little nitrogen fertilizer.
- 5. Turning.** Mixing a compost once or twice a month allows it to reach higher temperatures, decompose faster, and have less odor.

## COMPOSTING BY THE BOOK

Golden Valley's compost ordinance enforces proper composting and attempts to minimize nuisances from improper composting. Highlights are outlined below.

- Composts are permitted only on residential properties with up to four dwellings. Compost structures must be wood bins, wire mesh or a combination of wood and wire, or commercial compost bins. Structures must not exceed 500 cubic feet in volume, with a maximum height of five feet (eg, 10' x 10' x 5'). Only one structure is allowed per lot.
- Compost structures must be in the rear yard at least 10 feet from the property line (35 feet if property line is also a street line) and no closer than 40 feet to any habitable building other than your home.
- Residents must use standard compost practices, which provide adequate air circulation to prevent combustion and odor. Acceptable compost materials include yard waste, straw, fruit/vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, or egg shells generated on the property where the compost is located. Commercial ingredients specifically designed to speed or enhance decomposition are also acceptable.
- Woody yard waste, meat, bones, fat, oil, whole eggs, dairy products, unshredded branches or logs, weeds heavily laden with seeds, plastics, synthetic fibers, human or pet wastes, diseased plants, or any other garbage or refuse are composting no-nos.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the University of Minnesota Extension Service at [extension.umn.edu](http://extension.umn.edu) or [howtocompost.org](http://howtocompost.org) for more information on composting.

To learn more about Golden Valley's composting ordinance or yard waste disposal programs, visit the City Web site at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/composting.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/composting.htm) or call the Environmental Coordinator at 763-593-8030.

# City Collaborates With Clinic For Water Quality

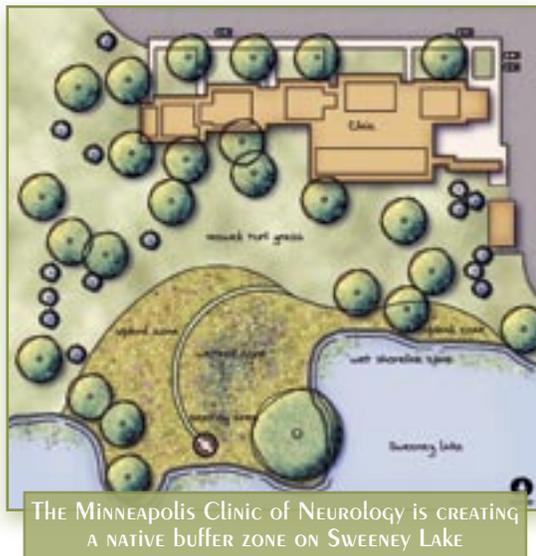
The City of Golden Valley is continually exploring opportunities to improve surface water quality in Golden Valley, and creating native buffer zones (a strip of natural vegetation along the water) is one of the best ways. Now the Minneapolis Clinic of Neurology, with help from the City and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), is bringing a substantial native buffer strip to the north side of Sweeney Lake.

## BIRTH OF THE BUFFER

Since the Clinic was built in 1965, its shoreline has noticeably eroded. Concerned Clinic staff contacted the DNR, which suggested a native buffer zone and provided details about a grant through the Natural Resource Incentives for Critical Habitat (NRICH) program that could help with costs.

"Both the City of Golden Valley and the DNR have been very helpful in getting this off the ground," says Cathy McCarty, the Clinic's Director of Internal Operations. "The City helped us complete the grant application. The DNR gave us 75% of the cost and the Clinic, with in-kind services from the City, is contributing the other 25%, almost \$7,500."

In January 2006, the Clinic learned the \$22,520 grant was approved and would be available July 1. Grant funds will help purchase and install plant materials, erosion control materials (floating silt fence, wood fiber blankets), goose barrier netting, and educational placards. The work will be done by Prairie Restorations, Inc, a company that has helped the City with other native plantings.



## BENEFITS

Native shoreline buffer zones:

- restore and stabilize the shoreline
- create a natural filter and prevent fertilizers, pesticides, and sediments from entering the water, thus improving water clarity
- reduce fertilizer and herbicide use (native plants do not require either)
- absorb wave energy that may erode the soil and reduce noise coming off the water
- control the geese that gather in non-buffered areas, eliminating goose dung
- reduce lawn acreage and the amount of time needed for mowing and maintenance
- encourage wildlife diversity and improve habitat

McCarty says the project is a great opportunity for the Clinic to enhance its property and benefit the environment. City Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom says the high-profile location will showcase buffer zones and how attractive they can be.

For more information on this project, contact Lundstrom at 763-593-8046. For more information about how to improve shorelines and water quality, visit the MnDNR Web site at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/shorelandmgmt/guide/waterquality.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/shorelandmgmt/guide/waterquality.html).

# Help BUST BUCKTHORN

Experts agree the best hope is to control, not eradicate, buckthorn. And groups of volunteers are needed to wield that control of the invasive woody plant.

"It's like a jungle in some places," says Tim Teynor, Assistant City Forester. "Volunteers allow Cities with budget constraints to start buckthorn control measures. I don't see how else the City could do it."

The City of Golden Valley supports volunteers through a "Buckthorn Busting" program begun last year at the request of City Council. City staff assembled a buckthorn kit, including tools such as weed wrenches, to help volunteers who want to work in City natural areas.

Upon hearing about the free program, residents began checking out the kit to bust buckthorn in their own areas. In fall 2005, a group of volunteers organized to tackle buckthorn in the South Rice Lake Nature Area. This year other volunteers began work on the north banks of Bassett Creek (City property).

Concerned citizens who want to manage buckthorn on their own property or arrange a group of volunteers for a larger area on City property are invited to check out a kit. For projects on City land, submit a volunteer application, including the proposed project area and



MANY VOLUNTEERS TURNED OUT FOR LAST FALL'S SOUTH RICE LAKE BUCKTHORN BUST.

how much help will be needed from the City (providing and applying chemical controls, hauling buckthorn away, etc).

Volunteers should realize that buckthorn control is a multi-

year commitment—but with rewards. "Once the buckthorn is controlled, the native plants start coming back," says Teynor.

For more information about buckthorn control or to volunteer, contact Teynor at 763-593-3976.

## RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Find details on the following Recreation Opportunities in the Spring/Summer Recreation Activities Brochure or the City Web site. Register in person, by mail, by fax (763-512-2344), or online ([www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/econnect/](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/econnect/)).

### FALL SOCCER

**Junior Soccer (grades K-1):** Saturdays, Sep 9-Oct 28, Hampshire Park, \$29 plus \$12 for shirt (if needed).

**Co-Rec Youth Soccer (grades 2-5):** Saturdays, Sept 9-Oct 28; \$29 plus \$12 for shirt (if needed).

**Northwest Suburban Soccer (grades 6-8):** Saturdays, beginning Sept 9, \$29.

**Adult Co-Rec Soccer:** Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons, beginning Sept 28. Register by Aug 4.

### BROOKVIEW COMMUNITY CENTER YOUTH ACTIVITIES

**Magic & Balloon Workshop** (ages 8 and up): Wed/Thurs, Aug 16-17, 1-3 pm

**Future Stars Tennis Day Camp** (ages 4-5): Mon-Thurs, Aug 21-24, 11 am

**Pee Wee Tennis** (ages 5-7): Mon/Wed, July 31-Aug 16 or Tues/Thurs, Aug 1-17

**Youth Tennis** (ages 7-9): Mon/Wed, July 31-Aug 16 or Tues/Thurs, Aug 1-17 or Mon-Thurs, July 31-Aug 10

### DAVIS COMMUNITY CENTER OPEN GYMS

**Mondays:** Over 40 Open Basketball, 8-10 pm

**Tuesdays:** Adult Co-Rec Open Volleyball, 8-10 pm

**Wednesdays:** Adult Open Basketball, 8-10 pm

**Thursdays:** Adult Co-Rec Open Volleyball, 8-10 pm

Watch for the Fall Recreation Activities Brochure in your mailbox the week of Aug 21.

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**

# GV's Athletic Fields Are Well Used and Maintained

Parks and open spaces play a vital role in the identity and character of a community. So, apparently, do athletic fields and facilities. During *Envision Golden Valley*, residents said they wanted a Golden Valley that "encourages year-around participation in sports, fitness, the arts ..." as well as "well-maintained athletic fields, gyms, playgrounds ...". So far the City is keeping up with demands ... but just.

"The whole focus of park maintenance has changed over the years," says Ron Hammer, Golden Valley's park maintenance supervisor. "Years ago we did a major project or two a year. Now all we do is try to maintain what we have the best we can."

## Well-Used Fields

Golden Valley's recreation facilities are heavily used year around. More than 3,000 residents register each year for City Park and Recreation programs such as sports leagues, open playground, soccer, T-ball, baseball, softball, kickball, football, and more. Hundreds more use City parks as part of local athletic associations. In 2006 alone, Golden Valley Girls' Slow-pitch had 485 participants, Little League had 210 participants, and Babe Ruth had 295 participants, and Phoenix Soccer had 500 participants. Some parks, such as Lions, are used by multiple associations. Even local pre-school programs can be found using City athletic fields. And winter is no different. This year City skating rinks saw an increase in attendance.

Photo by Caryn Glover, Views of the Valley 2006



YOUTH BASEBALL ACCOUNTS FOR JUST A PORTION OF GV ATHLETIC FIELD USE.

## TENDER LOVING CARE

Athletic fields are part of the 21 parks, nine nature areas, and two activity areas within Golden Valley that City Park Maintenance crews tend year around, and they require extensive weekly maintenance. Crews mow about 10 soccer fields once or twice a week (depending on weather) from May through October. Two crew members spend a full day each week painting lines on the soccer fields and about 20 baseball/softball fields. They also maintain five grass infields for Little League and Babe Ruth baseball teams.

Besides soccer fields and ball diamonds, crews also maintain tennis and basketball courts and numerous hard play surfaces. They spend about three days each week trimming grass around trees, fences, and park buildings. Checking the lights in all the athletic areas takes a full-time crew member one full day a month, and checking and emptying trash cans takes two full-time crew members a full day every week.

"I'm so proud of what we've built here in parks and how we've maintained them," Hammer continues. "But we have an aging parks system and a limited amount of resources."

## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Recognizing that Golden Valley has an aging parks system and limited resources, the City Council is collaborating with a volunteer task force to spearhead a parks inventory. See the article on page 1 for more information on how to get involved in the future of Golden Valley parks. For more information on Golden Valley parks, visit the City Web site at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/parks/parkstrails.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/parks/parkstrails.htm). For more information on volunteering in Golden Valley, see the article on page 7. If you have questions about Golden Valley's park and athletic facilities, contact Brian Erickson 763-512-2366.

# Citizen Volunteers Have Far-Reaching Impact

Volunteers come in all ages and from all walks of life, but they share a care for the community and other people. Without them, *Envision Golden Valley* (the citizen-led community visioning process) would not have occurred and many collaborative Park and Rec programs (including youth sports leagues) would not exist. And without a group of Golden Valley senior volunteers who meet every Monday morning, more than 70 residents in the Ambassador Nursing Home would not have their lives brightened by a monthly door decoration.

## VOLUNTEERS LOOKING AHEAD

Local volunteers have the inside scoop on area needs and resources and a vested interest in keeping the community strong. Kelly Kuebelbeck and Jerry Sandler, both volunteers who serve on Golden Valley's Open Space and Recreation Commission (OSRC), are two examples.

Kuebelbeck has been a Golden Valley resident for five years. With three young children, she finds herself in the parks all the time. "Instead of complaining, I thought I should get involved," she says. Involvement meant joining the OSRC about a year-and-a-half ago and recently taking on the task of developing a parks survey (see box below) to "get as much information as possible as to where they [residents] want to take Golden Valley parks."

Sandler, a 25-year Golden Valley resident and chair of the OSRC, is also involved in developing the parks survey. "Our parks are in good shape overall, but it [the survey] is about looking for the future," he explains. "There are activities like ultimate frisbee and skateboarding that weren't around 20 years ago." Volunteering is not new to Sandler, who has coached Little League, girls' softball, soccer, and basketball and is the Little League district administrator.

"I have four kids who have gone through the Park and Rec system here," says Sandler. "Golden Valley has a good program and great parks and I wanted to be part of keeping it that way."

## GET INVOLVED

Making and keeping Golden Valley a great place to live is the responsibility of every resident, and those interested in getting involved have numerous options.

Interested in parks and recreation? Attend a Parks Planning Information Meeting (see page 1), coach a team, adopt a park (call 763-512-2345), or help bust buckthorn (see sidebar on page 5). Want to share your interests and talents with like-minded people? Check out Golden Valley Connects and Bridge Builders, a citizen community-building initiative resulting from *Envision Golden Valley* (see sidebar on page 15). Seniors can inquire about volunteer options at the Golden Valley Seniors Office (763-512-2339). And if you're interested in applying to serve on a City Council advisory board, commission, or task force, study the options at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/city-government/boards.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/city-government/boards.htm) or call City Hall at 763-593-3991. 

## Golden Valley PARKS SURVEY

The next issue of *CityNews* will include a parks survey as part of the City's parks planning initiative (see page 1). The City will use the survey results to guide planning for future parks and recreation facilities and programs.

The survey was developed by citizen volunteers and City staff, with input from Decision Resources, Inc, the company that created the City's last community-wide survey in 1999.

## SENIOR STUFF

Activities are at Brookview Community Center and require advance registration.

### COFFEE TALK

Join us every fourth **Wednesday, 9:30–11 am**. Good speakers, treats, and coffee! Register by the Monday before; \$2 at the door.

### MEDICARE PART D AND HEALTH INSURANCE HELP

**Aug 8 and Sept 12 at 9, 10, and 11 am**. Get help with health insurance and Medicare forms and information about Medicare supplemental, long-term care insurance, and Medicare Part D. Call the Seniors office for an appointment.

### DEFENSIVE DRIVING FOUR-HOUR REFRESHER COURSE

**Aug 10 or Sept 14, 9 am–1 pm**. Register with the MN Safety Council (651-291-9150) for the Brookview location. \$16/person.

### GET ACTIVE THIS SUMMER

**Pedal Pusher Bicycle Group**—Aug 17: Midtown Greenway; Sept 5: Lake Nokomis, Minnehaha Falls; Sept 26: Mendota Heights Trail

**Local Motion Walking Group**—Aug 31: Minnesota State Fair; Sept 28: Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

### FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

**Aug 23, 11–11:30 am**. By Ambassador Good Samaritan Home Care.

### UPCOMING TRIPS (REGISTER EARLY)

**Sept 20:** "Singing in the Rain" at Chanhassen—\$56 (includes lunch, ticket, tax, gratuity, coach bus, and escort). Payment due Aug 9.

**Sept 28:** Red Wing—\$38 (includes box lunch, chorus concert, Pottery District, coach bus, and escort). Payment due Sept 11.

For more information or to register, contact:

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

# The City of Golden Valley Is Proud To Present The 2006 *Views of the Valley*

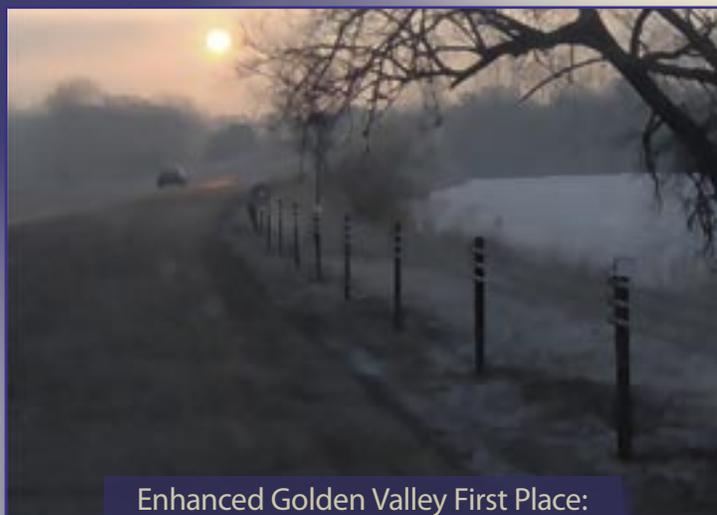
Attention, please! Welcome to the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Golden Valley *Views of the Valley* photo contest with a record-breaking 86 entries. In unprecedented numbers, talented residents captured their version of Golden Valley life in three categories.

In the Natural category, 43 photo entries exposed animals,

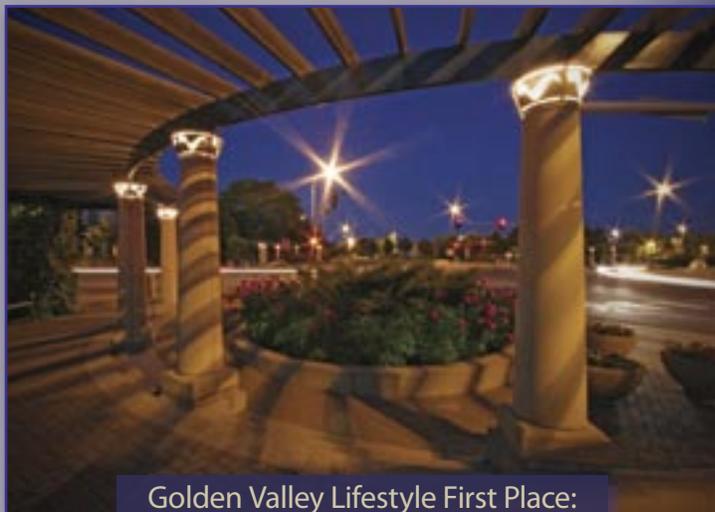
landscapes, flora, and fauna. In the Lifestyle category, 35 photo entries captured cityscapes, buildings, people, and activities. In the Enhanced category, eight entries featured images altered with editing software, lenses, extended exposures, etc. To do justice to all these fabulous winners, those coming in third place in their respective category were granted their own awards space on page 15.

Now, without further adieu. Keeping the contest standards in mind, as well as the basics of good photography, judges ranked all of the photos and chose winners in each category and a grand prize winner. [DRUM ROLL].

In the Enhanced category, second place goes to Adam Buttress for "Golden Valley Days." Tim Erickson takes first place for "Early Morning Drive on 55." [APPLAUSE]



Enhanced Golden Valley First Place:  
"Early Morning Drive on 55"  
by Tim Erickson



Golden Valley Lifestyle First Place:  
"Downtown at Night"  
by Richard Gunderson



Golden Valley Lifestyle Second Place:  
"Tennis at 10" by L.J. Linehan



# Present Awards

In the Lifestyles category, second place goes to L. J. Linehan for "Tennis at 10." Richard Gunderson takes first place for "Downtown at Night." [APPLAUSE]



Enhanced Golden Valley Second Place:  
"Golden Valey Days"  
by Adam Buttress



Natural Golden Valley  
Second Place:  
"Bottoms Up–Bee,  
Heavenly Blue  
Morning Glory"  
by Carole Beach

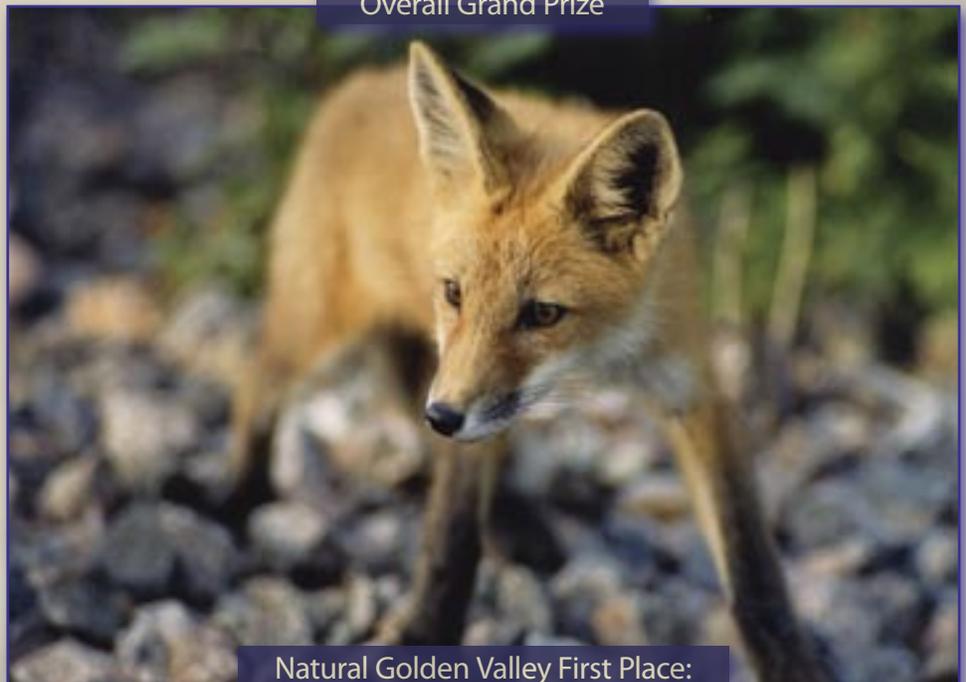
And in the most highly populated Natural category, second place goes to Carole Beach for "Bottoms Up–Bee, Heavenly Blue Morning Glory." First place goes to Shawn Dooley for "Fox Pup". [APPLAUSE] Wait! Wait! Based on the scores of the judges, "Fox Pup" also takes the overall grand prize. [APPLAUSE]

Winning photos and all entries can be viewed online at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/PhotoContest/photocontest.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/PhotoContest/photocontest.htm). See you next year!

What a year! Will the 2006 judges please take a bow: Cindy Kirn of Great Photos Fast and Cindy Kirn Photography; Jerry Beck, City of New Hope Communications Coordinator; Pat Brink, City of Eden Prairie Communications Coordinator; and Ellen G. Anderson, a former Views of the Valley winner. [APPLAUSE]

(Photo Contest Awards continued on page 15)

Overall Grand Prize



Natural Golden Valley First Place:  
"Fox Pup" by Shawn Dooley

All winners receive a cash prize, certificates of recognition, and publication of their photos in various Golden Valley public information pieces. *Views of the Valley* aims to promote Golden Valley and civic pride. Next year's contest deadline is June 6, 2007.

## UNITED Way 211 Offers Help

Every hour of every day, someone in the United States needs essential services, from after-school programs to adequate care for a child or aging parent. With so many available agencies and help-lines, people often don't know where to start and sometimes end up going without necessary services. United Way 211 is here to help.

Spearheaded by United Way and state and local information and referral agencies, 211 connects people with community services and volunteer opportunities. United Way of America (UWA) and the Alliance for Information and Referral Systems (AIRS) support federal funding so every American has access to this essential service. Services vary by community but range from referrals for every day needs to crises. Examples include:

- **Basic Human Needs Resources** (food banks, clothing closets, shelters, rent and utility assistance)
- **Physical and Mental Health Resources** (health insurance programs, Medicaid and Medicare, maternal health, medical information lines, crisis intervention services, support groups, counseling, drug and alcohol intervention and rehabilitation)
- **Employment Support** (financial and transportation assistance, job training, education programs)
- **Support for Older Americans and Persons with Disabilities** (adult day care, congregate meals, Meals on Wheels, respite care, home health care, transportation, homemaker services)
- **Support for Children, Youth, and Families** (childcare, after school programs, Head Start, family resource centers, summer camps and recreation programs, mentoring, tutoring, protective services)
- **Volunteer Opportunities and Donations**

United Way 211 is free, confidential, and available 24/7. Cell phone users can call 1-800-543-7709. For more information, go to [www.unitedwaytwin-cities.org](http://www.unitedwaytwin-cities.org) and click on Community Info. You can also visit [www.firstcallnet.org](http://www.firstcallnet.org) for services throughout Minnesota.

# Help Stop Underage Drinking And Save Lives

These days 19.7% of all alcohol consumed in the United States is poured down the gullets of underage drinkers (National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse), making underage drinking a major public health and safety problem. According to the Centers for Disease Control, alcohol is a key factor in the four leading causes of death among youth (traffic crashes, homicides, injuries, and suicides). The Golden Valley Police Department is dedicated to preventing underage drinking through ongoing education and enforcement. Community members can help, too.

## MINIMIZING ACCESS

A national survey of more than 6,000 teenagers revealed that they usually get their alcohol from persons 21 or older, with 65% saying they get their alcohol from family and friends. The second most common source was buying it from a store, bar, or restaurant. A University of Minnesota Alcohol Epidemiology Program research project found that young females who attempted to buy beer without an ID at liquor and convenience stores were successful half the time. The 2004 Minnesota Student Survey found 11% of high school senior boys had purchased alcohol from a store in the past month.

The Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) works to raise awareness about underage drinking through programs like CounterAct, Safety Camp, and public information campaigns. The GVPD also routinely uses compliance checks as a tool to identify establishments that sell alcohol to underage youth. The goal is not to penalize retailers, but rather to encourage alcohol licensees to "police" themselves and adequately train, supervise, and back up their employees.

## You Can Help

If you have kids at home, talk with them about alcohol, let them know you disapprove of underage drinking, and be a good role model. Discuss the consequences of drinking, and reinforce that underage drinking is against the law. Supervise your child, including online activities. Recognize problem behavior and seek help when necessary.

As a community member, you can help by reporting suspicious behavior to the GVPD. This would include parties in the neighborhood when you know the parents aren't home and groups drinking in parks or other outdoor areas. Encourage and provide alcohol-free activities for kids.

## An Unnecessary Truth

Each year, approximately 5,000 people under the age of 21 die as a result of underage drinking. This breaks down to about 1,900 deaths from motor vehicle crashes, 1,600 as a result of homicides, 300 from suicide, and hundreds from other injuries such as falls, burns, and drownings.

## ENFORCEMENT

In 2005, the Golden Valley Police Department conducted alcohol compliance checks at 24 establishments (18 passed and six failed). Establishments that fail may be penalized by up to a \$2,000 administrative fee and a 10-day suspension of their liquor license. Businesses with four violations within three years may have their liquor licenses revoked by the City and may also be charged with a misdemeanor.

Adults who buy or supply alcohol for youth can be charged with providing alcohol to a minor, which is a gross misdemeanor, punishable by up to a \$300 fine and up to 365 days in jail.

Persons under age 21 who are caught consuming alcohol can be cited for underage consumption, which carries a \$142 fine.

For more information, call Golden Valley Crime Prevention Specialist Joanne Paul at 763-593-8058.

# Safety Belts, Car Seats Keep Everyone Safe

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death and disability among children. In the event of a crash, anyone who rides unrestrained or improperly restrained could be seriously hurt and may also hurt the other passengers in the vehicle by being thrown against them. And crashes are not the only danger. Sudden stops may also seriously injure children who are not properly buckled up.

Vehicle seats and safety belts are built to fit adults, not children, which can make it hard to properly buckle up. Buckling children in the appropriate restraint, the right way, can protect them during a crash or sudden stop. The following guidelines will help you determine the appropriate car safety restraint for your child.

## CHOOSING A SAFETY SEAT

Seven of 10 child safety seats are not used the right way. A seat that is easy to install and use will be the best for you and your child. The best or safest restraint should fit the child's size and weight, fit in your vehicle tightly, and be used the right way every time. The following 4 Steps for Kids guidelines help parents choose the correct restraint for each stage of their child's development:

- All children age 12 and younger should ride in the back seat.
- Children should ride in rear-facing infant seats from birth to at least one year old and at least 20 pounds. They should ride in forward-facing toddler seats from age one and at least 20 pounds to about age four and at least 40 pounds. They should ride in booster seats from about age four and 40 pounds to at least age 8, unless 4' 9" tall. At age eight or older or taller than 4' 9", they should wear lap and shoulder safety belts.
- Before you leave the store, be sure you understand how to use the safety seat. Try locking and releasing the buckle and adjusting the harness.
- Try the seat in your vehicle. Some safety seats fit better in some vehicles than others. Choose the seat that can be held tightly against the vehicle seat back.
- When installing the seat, find and read both the vehicle owner's manual and the safety seat instruction manual.
- Register your child safety seat with the manufacturer so you will be notified of any safety recalls. All new safety seats come with a registration card. If you have an older seat or purchase a second-hand seat, call the manufacturer to register your seat.
- A safety seat that is more than six years old should be replaced. Normal wear and tear may cause the seat to not work as well as it did when it was new. Also, newer seats have improved safety designs.
- Warning! A safety seat that was used in a vehicle during a crash should not be used again; it should be destroyed. Regardless of how the seat looks or how old it is, possible unseen damage may make the seat less effective in a second crash and cause serious injury to a child.

## AIR BAGS

Air bags (frontal or side) are supplemental safety devices intended to work best in combination with safety belts. Never place a rear-facing infant seat in the front seat of a vehicle with a front passenger air bag. Children should not lean or rest against chest-only or head/chest combination side air bags. There have been no moderate or serious injuries to children from side air bag deployments, and there has been no indication of risk to children from current roof-mounted head side air bags.



For more information about child safety seats, or to have your child safety seat inspected, contact Golden Valley Public Safety at 763-593-8079.

# CITY SEEKS FIREFIGHTERS

The Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) is seeking men and women interested in serving their community by becoming paid, on-call firefighters.

Paid, on-call firefighters must:

- be at least 18 years old with a high school diploma or equivalent
- have a valid Minnesota Class D driver's license (with a good driving record)
- have a positive, constructive image and attitude
- live or work within six minutes of a fire station and have dependable transportation
- be in good health and pass physical and psychological exams, a physical abilities test, a background investigation, and a written exam
- complete an oral interview, a probation period, basic recruit training, and requirements for first responder training
- wear a pager while on call and be available for a reasonable number of fire calls, drills, and meetings
- be available for work detail once every two months
- be able to make decisions regarding the safety of other firefighters and yourself
- work as a team member under extremely stressful conditions

Along with a pension plan and disability benefits, GVFD firefighters receive the following hourly wage:

- probationary firefighter (\$8.19/hr)
- apprentice firefighter (\$10.89/hr)
- firefighter (\$12.93/hr)

Besides the satisfaction they get from helping others, firefighters also reap other benefits from the job, including increased self-confidence, experience, responsibility, social connections and events, fun and friends, and the chance to be a positive community role model.

## INFORMATION MEETINGS

To learn more about Golden Valley's paid on-call fire department, attend an information meeting August 14 at 9:30 am or 6:30 pm. For more information, go to [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us), or call 763-593-3977.

## I/I Is A REGIONAL ISSUE

Inflow and infiltration (I/I) surpluses come from two major sources. Inflow is usually traced to sump pumps (used by many homeowners to keep groundwater out of their basements), roof downspouts, and foundation drains that are directed (cross-connected) to discharge into the City's sanitary sewer system. Sump pumps are often connected via a hose leading from the sump to a laundry tub or a floor drain. Infiltration occurs when groundwater seeps into sanitary sewer pipes through cracks or joints.

Clear water reduces capacity in the regional wastewater collection and treatment system and, in intense rainfall events, can cause sewer backups and overflows. If not reduced, excessive I/I could limit growth in the region.

In comparison, the Met Council estimates it would cost the region a minimum of \$900 million to build the infrastructure just to convey the excess flows to wastewater treatment plants. Costs to expand treatment plants would also be prohibitive.

For more information about I/I's regional impacts, visit the Met Council Web site at [www.metrocouncil.org/planning/environment/inflow\\_infiltration.htm](http://www.metrocouncil.org/planning/environment/inflow_infiltration.htm).

## Swimming Pools and Hot Tubs: KEEP WATER OUT OF SANITARY SEWERS

When the time comes to empty your swimming pool or hot tub, make sure the water ends up on your lawn or in the storm sewer and not in the sanitary sewer. But before discharging the water into the environment, be sure to properly eliminate the chlorine.

Stop chlorinating the water several days before discharging, then test the chlorine content with a standard pool test kit. Usually three to four days is sufficient.

To prevent erosion in the discharge area, reduce the flow rate (use a smaller diameter hose), place additional piping or hose over the erosive area to prevent soil/water contact, or sod bare areas ahead of time.

# New Ordinance To Address I/I

In late summer or early fall, the Golden Valley City Council will consider amending the City's municipal utility code to address the inspection and enforcement of illegal discharges into the sanitary sewer system. The action is needed to reduce inflow and infiltration (I/I), which is the flow of clear water (rain water or groundwater) into the sanitary sewer system (see sidebar for details). If the City doesn't act, it will have to pay regional wastewater surcharges starting in January 2007.

## THE PROBLEM

The Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES), which provides trunk sanitary sewer collection and treatment services for the metro area, has determined that the City of Golden Valley is among the cities that periodically exceeds its maximum daily allowable sewer flow from the community. This excess flow, as well as excess flow from many other cities, overburdens the MCES collection and treatment system and can result in sanitary sewer overflows into the Mississippi River.

As a result, the MCES is implementing an I/I surcharge to eliminate the excess flow. Under the currently proposed surcharge system, the City of Golden Valley will be charged approximately \$350,000 (or greater, depending on the volume of flow above peak allowable flow).

An I/I study completed in March 2006 identified illegal connections of clear water sources as the largest source of excess flow in Golden Valley. To minimize flows of clear water to the sanitary sewer system and minimize the surcharge to Golden Valley, the City must address the issue of illegal connections to the sewer system.

## THE PROPOSED SOLUTION

Golden Valley's current municipal utility code does not specifically prohibit the discharge of clear water to the sanitary sewer system, nor does it allow the City to inspect connections to the sanitary sewer system and order corrections to illegal discharges. The revised ordinance will specifically address these issues.

Because of the extent of the financial impacts of MCES' surcharge to the City (and each of its residents and businesses), an inspection program is critical. The City anticipates that it will inspect every home and business in Golden Valley over the next several years. The inspections will target sump pumps, foundation drains, roof drains, and other discharges of clean water into the sanitary sewer system.

When City inspectors find property owners discharging clear water into the sanitary sewer, they will issue a correction notice with a date by which the problem discharge must be corrected. Failure to correct the discharge could result in surcharges on the property owner's utility bill.

Property owners who apply for building permits, variances, subdivisions, or other actions from the City will also be subject to an inspection. Overall, property owners can expect ongoing inspections and other efforts to control I/I for many years to come.

If adopted, the changes to the municipal utility code could take effect by fall 2006. If you have questions about I/I or the proposed changes to the municipal utility code, contact Golden Valley Public Works at 763-593-8030.



# Renter's/Home Insurance: How Much Is Enough?

As the news reports, natural and man-made disasters occur everyday. Insurance can help alleviate some worry and supply funds to put pieces together again. So why aren't more homeowners insured as much as they should be, and why did a 2003 poll by the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America find 64 percent of respondents in rental properties had no insurance?

## HOMEOWNER'S INSURANCE

Most homeowners realize they need to protect their investment (and mortgage holders insist on protection if a loan is involved), but many homeowners are underinsured.

The Insurance Information Institute (III), a nonprofit organization, recommends homeowner's have enough insurance to cover:

- the structure of the home
- all personal possessions
- the additional cost of living if the home is damaged and you need to live elsewhere during repairs
- liability to others



WHETHER YOU RENT OR OWN, IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE ENOUGH INSURANCE TO COVER YOUR PERSONAL BELONGINGS AND LIABILITY TO OTHERS.

To determine how much coverage is needed for the structure, III suggests researching construction costs in your area and multiplying the building costs per square foot by the total square footage of your house.

For alternative living costs, multiply daily hotel room rates by the number of days you estimate you'd be out of your home during a major repair. It's also important to inventory the contents of your home to accurately estimate replacement costs (see sidebar for details).

In addition, III recommends homeowners consider other insurance policy factors, such as guaranteed or extended replacement cost and inflation guards.

## RENTER'S INSURANCE

A landlord's insurance generally covers only the building, not a renter's belongings, making renter's insurance a must for anyone renting any structure that serves as their home. Renter's insurance provides coverage against loss of possessions from fire, smoke, lightning, vandalism, theft, windstorm, and water damage from plumbing (flood and earthquake coverage require a separate policy). Chances are your possessions are worth more than you think and you will need to replace them if something happens (see sidebar for more information). Policies for renters can also include the cost of hotels, temporary rentals, restaurant meals, and other living expenses when people are displaced due to an insured disaster.

Renters can also be held responsible if someone is injured or another person's property is damaged at the home they are renting. Renter's policies include liability coverage to protect renters from damage caused by them, a family member, or a pet.

"People don't realize the affordability and how well protected they could be for less than they spend on a cup of coffee per day," says Timothy E. Courtier, an American Family Insurance agent in Golden Valley.

More information for both homeowners and renters can be found at [www.iii.org](http://www.iii.org).

# INVENTORY YOUR PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Does your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy include enough coverage to replace your personal belongings? How much coverage you need? The Insurance Information Institute (III) offers the following tips.

First, check your insurance policy's Declarations Page under "Section I, Coverages, A. Dwelling" to see current coverage limits for personal belongings. Then do a home inventory to determine how much coverage you actually need. This will also help settle insurance claims settled faster in the event of a loss.

## MAKE A LIST

Plan to make a detailed list of everything you own, including a description, make and model, serial numbers, and where you bought it, when applicable. Attach sales receipts or other purchase information, if available. Count clothing by category (pants, coats, shoes, etc). Many valuable items (jewelry, art work, collectibles) may need to be insured separately. Either way, it's important to keep appraisals up to date to be sure you have adequate coverage.

To support your list, photograph or videotape your possessions as well, and include the footage in a final "home inventory" file. Some personal finance software packages provide guidelines or templates for home inventories. The III also offers a free, easy-to-use tool that can be downloaded from its Web site at [www.iii.org](http://www.iii.org).

## STORE IT SAFELY

Keep your completed list and supporting documentation in a safe place away from your home so it will always be available if your home is damaged. Plan to update your inventory regularly and increase your insurance coverage as needed.

If you have questions about personal property insurance coverage, contact your insurance agent or check out the information available from the nonprofit III at [www.iii.org](http://www.iii.org).

## SHARE THE ROAD SAFELY

The meeting of pedestrians and vehicles at intersections and along roadways does not have to end tragically.

Experts at the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and the Minnesota Safety Council (MSC) are working to make this a more compatible mix.

The premise is simple: these days there are more pedestrians and more vehicles, and they have to learn to get along. Both pedestrians and drivers need to show some respect and give each other room. The following Minnesota laws apply to both.

### PEDESTRIANS

When you're a pedestrian, you must obey traffic-control signals and stay on the sidewalk when there is one. If there isn't a sidewalk, you need to stay to the far left, just like everyone using the road. Cross at marked intersections, if available, and at both marked and unmarked intersections, wait until the roadway is clear before crossing. In all situations, make sure the driver sees you before you step into the street. And finally, it is law that you do not step into any intersection, marked or not, if an approaching vehicle does not have sufficient time to yield to you.

### DRIVERS

When driving, remember you are bigger in that vehicle, and even getting close to pedestrians can be intimidating for them. Etiquette aside, there are laws to be obeyed also. If pedestrians are in a crosswalk, whether marked or not, you must remain stopped until they pass your lane. If another vehicle is stopped at a marked or unmarked crosswalk to permit a pedestrian to cross, it's illegal for you to pass them. And you must never proceed through a group of school children crossing a roadway or past a school safety patrol holding an official sign in a stop position.

Failing to abide by these laws can result in a \$700 fine, 90 days in jail, or both. For more detailed laws and facts, visit MnDOT at [www.dot.state.mn.us](http://www.dot.state.mn.us) or MSC at [www.mnsafetycouncil.org](http://www.mnsafetycouncil.org).

# Beware Of Rampant Red Light Running

We've all seen it. Approaching a traffic signal, the light turns from green to yellow, and we are at a point where we could stop by braking hard but decide instead to continue. We enter the intersection on yellow, see just the flick of the red light as we pass the far side traffic signal, and then look in the rear view mirror to see one or two cars behind us that also did not stop and probably entered on a red light.

If you watch any signalized intersection, in Golden Valley or elsewhere, you'll see people run the red light, most often approaching the intersection on a yellow light but entering after the red light is displayed. Other common violations include right turns on a red light without any attempt to stop or making a left turn on a red left turn arrow. A recent South Dakota study of a few intersections showed more than one violation during each traffic signal cycle. Video cameras monitoring intersections in St Paul showed similar rates.

Red light runners most commonly face two potential crashes—a side impact with a vehicle entering from the cross street on a green light, or a collision with a stopped or stopping vehicle. Side impact crashes result in a relatively high frequency of personal injuries and fatalities.

### ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

Enforcement of red light violations is difficult. At intersections where violations are common, two officers are generally needed to catch violators—one observes the violation and radios ahead to another officer to pull the offender over.

Several jurisdictions use cameras to document violations. The City of Minneapolis recently began using cameras to enforce red light violations but stopped pending a challenge through court action. Other states have passed legislation making it legal to use cameras to record the license plates of vehicles entering intersections on a red light. A recent study by the Federal Highway Administration noted that red light camera systems may be beneficial at intersections where there are relatively few rear-end crashes and many right angle ones.

Because of the potential severity of a side impact crash, several cities have extended special enforcement efforts at intersections prone to red light running. The alternative is to wait for legislative action to make use of cameras legal in helping apprehend red light runners.

### PROTECT YOURSELF

In the meantime, defensive driving is your best protection from red light runners. The following tips should help:

- Never assume that vehicles will stop for a red light.
- The first cars progressing through an intersection after a light turns green are the most vulnerable to cars that don't stop for a red light. Look both ways before entering the intersection.
- When approaching an intersection on a green light, check to make certain that traffic coming from the cross street is stopped or preparing to stop.
- When approaching an intersection on a green light, be prepared for the display of a yellow light and predetermine whether you will continue or stop.
- Always be aware of traffic behind you.
- As a pedestrian crossing an intersection, do not assume that a person turning right will see you and stop.

If you have questions about red light violations, contact the Deputy Police Chief Roger Johnson at 763-593-8070.





# Photo Contest Awards

(continued from page 9)

Taking third place for an Enhanced photo is Rich Smith for "Rustic Bridge."

Third place for a Lifestyle photo goes to Tom Eklo for "Bursts of Red Over Brookview."

Third place for a Natural photo goes to Lyn Hamlin for "Golden Valley Garden in Repose."



Enhanced Golden Valley Third Place: "Rustic Bridge" by Rich Smith



Golden Valley Lifestyle Third Place: "Bursts of Red Over brookview" by Tom Eklo



Natural Golden Valley Third Place: "Golden Valley Garden in Repose" by Lyn Hamlin

# Help CREATE COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Community connections can occur in myriad ways. In a day-long workshop May 12, national trainer Jeff Bercuvitz showed 21 Golden Valley folks how to create their own "small sparks" to ignite community action. This was one of the Golden Valley Connection Project's first initiatives to involve citizens in bringing the *Envision Golden Valley* vision to action.

At the workshop, people used their own passions as inspiration for activities that can



benefit the community, from neighborhood get-togethers, buckthorn busting, and weeding Highway 100 lilacs to promoting bike trails, music in the parks, or teen programs at the library. They will continue to operate as Golden Valley Bridge Builders, catalysts in the *Envision* effort to creatively connect people and places and inspire care for the community.

## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

For more information about Bridge Builders, come to the Small Sparks Update August 14 at 5:30 pm in Brookview Park (right before the Concert in the Park by Beacon Hill Brass).

You can also learn more about Bridge Builders and Connecting Golden Valley at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/ConnectingGV.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/ConnectingGV.htm).

Join Golden Valley Connects, an online neighborhood that allows people to connect with others in the community who share similar interests as well as learn about local events, clubs, and businesses. Check it out at [www.i-neighbors.com](http://www.i-neighbors.com) and sign in at zip code 55427. While you're there, visit the Bridge Builder neighborhood.

You can also tune in to Cable Channel 16 and watch fellow community members discuss Connecting Golden Valley and the citizen approach to *Envision Golden Valley*.

If you have questions about Connecting Golden Valley and how to get involved, call Jeanne Andre at 763-593-8014.

## PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE FAQs

Why does the City care about my personal property?

- Although sometimes a delicate balance for government, an active approach to maintenance standards will help ensure health, safety, public welfare, and the greater good of the community.

What does this mean for my home?

- The proposed code establishes minimum maintenance standards for one- and two-family homes.
- The proposed code does not establish decorating or landscape standards for one- and two-family homes.

If you have other questions, contact Property Maintenance Inspector Angela Obert at 763-593-8074 or [aobert@www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](mailto:aobert@www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us).



PROPERTY MAINTENANCE  
INFORMATION MEETINGS

# Council Considers Code For Property Maintenance

Property maintenance issues are high on the list of the Golden Valley City Council's goals for the community. At its August 15, 2006 meeting, the City Council will formally consider adopting exterior property maintenance standards for one- and two-family homes (eg, roofs, walls, and windows would be required to be in good repair). Property maintenance standards already exist for multiple dwelling properties.

Over the past year, *CityNews* has run articles informing residents about property maintenance standards—preventive requirements that help communities maintain their housing. In June, the City Council and staff hosted three open house information meetings to outline the City's need for creating minimum exterior maintenance standards, receive input on the proposed property maintenance code, answer questions, and listen to resident concerns. City staff collected written and verbal comments/concerns from around 75 residents who attended the meetings and passed them on to the City Council. Additional citizen feedback is being collected via comment cards available on the City Web site.

Residents can view a draft of the proposed property maintenance code and download a comment card to provide feedback (until August 10) at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/whatsnew/PropertyMaintenanceMeetings2006.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/whatsnew/PropertyMaintenanceMeetings2006.htm). Property Maintenance Inspector Angela Obert (763-593-8074) can also provide copies of draft ordinances or comment cards and answer questions.

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.