

# Golden Valley

## CityNEWS

### City Gets Proactive With Property Maintenance

As the houses of Golden Valley age, property maintenance standards have become more of a priority for citizens, not just for the overall appearance of the City's neighborhoods, but also for the well-being of the community.

*78% of Golden Valley's homes were built before 1970*

With this in mind, the Golden Valley City Council recently passed a minimum-standards maintenance code that applies to both multiple-dwelling properties and one- and two-family homes (see page 8 for specifics).

The Residential Property Maintenance Code (RPMC), passed January 2, was developed based on citizen input gathered through public surveys, meetings, and online feedback. It stresses a common-sense approach to maintaining your home, and it continues the City's pursuit of proactively maintaining the vitality and integrity of its housing stock (see *Home Remodeling Fair* article on page 16).

In the past, the City approached property maintenance issues on a complaint basis, receiving an average of 40 complaints per month. City staff expects that number will increase as houses age (see sidebar). Now, with the new code in place, city inspectors will be proactive in addressing maintenance problems and will issue penalties for property owners who fail to respond (see page 7). The goal is to encourage people to find and fix maintenance concerns well before they spark complaints.

To view the entire RPMC, go to [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/city-code1/index.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/city-code1/index.htm), click on chapter 4, then click section 4.60. 

### Q&A: RPMC

#### RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE

Why does the City care about my personal property?

- Although sometimes it's 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.
- Public feedback has indicated overwhelming support for better maintenance standards and more proactive approaches to addressing them.

What does this mean for my home?

- The code establishes minimum maintenance standards for your home and yard (see page 8).
- The code does not establish decorating or landscape standards.

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



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## STATE OF THE CITY IS FEB 13

The Golden Valley City Council will present its 2007 State of the City Community Update Tuesday, February 13, at 7:30 am, in the City Hall Council Chambers. All members of the community are invited to attend. The video will then be replayed several times a day on *GV 16*, the City's government access cable channel.

The annual State of the City reports the City's accomplishments of the past year and previews goals for the coming year. This is the fourth year the report will be presented in a video format.

This year's State of the City highlights will focus again on community connections, inspired by themes from *Envision Golden Valley*, the City's community visioning process. Look for information and updates regarding development, transportation, community engagement, environment, recreation, and government, with a specific focus on how projects and initiatives connect the community at large.

For more information, contact Communications Coordinator Cheryl Weiler at 763-593-8004. 

## STEPS TO APPEAL

If you disagree with the City's value assessment of your property, follow these steps for appeal (as established by Hennepin County):

**Step 1:** Talk to your assessor. Call the number listed on the valuation notice and discuss your concerns and sales information. If you can't resolve the problem, move to step two.

**Step 2:** Attend the Board of Appeal and Equalization (Open Book style) meeting, which meets in April or May at the City level. Appeal in person, by letter, or by designated representative. Tell the assessor ahead of time you will be attending the meeting so they can bring the appropriate information. If the problem is not resolved, move to step three.

**Step 3:** Attend the County Board of Appeal and Equalization, which meets in June. Appeal in person, by letter, or by designated representative. 

# City Outlines Property Valuation Process

With the start of the new year comes another round of property valuations for the City of Golden Valley.

The City's approach to establishing property values is no simple matter. It requires careful valuation of every house and a scientific knowledge of the overall housing market year by year.

There are four major steps to establishing accurate assessments:

1. About every fifth year an appraiser views your property, inside and out.
2. The appraiser gathers information on property characteristics that affect market value, such as size, age, quality, and accessory structures.
3. An assessor analyzes actual sales of property in the city, reviewing last year's open market sales to determine what similar properties would likely sell for.
4. The property characteristics are entered into a computer appraisal system, and information is updated to reflect market trends and the value of each property.

The City of Golden Valley hires licensed professionals from Hennepin County to appraise the market value of your home.

The market value estimated by the assessor should be very close to the amount the property would sell for if placed on the open market. (State law defines the market value of a house as "the usual selling price at the time of assessment.") The value and classification of real estate must be established by January 2 every year.

The January 2 assessment establishes the basis for the following year's property tax. For example, the value and classification on January 2, 2007, is used to calculate the tax payable in 2008.

Hennepin County mails property valuation notices in late February or early March. You may appeal if you disagree about the assessed value of your home (see box at left). The County mails Truth in Taxation notices in November and property tax statements in March (see box at right).

For more information, contact the Hennepin County Assessor's Office at 612-348-3046, or visit the Hennepin County Web site at [www.co.hennepin.mn.us](http://www.co.hennepin.mn.us), click on the "Environment, Property, and Transportation" link, then click on the "Property" link. 

## FROM ASSESSMENT TO TAXATION

A Three-Part Process,  
Two-Year Cycle:

### YEAR ONE



Hennepin County assesses property values as of January 2 and mails valuation notices in late February or early March.



Truth in Taxation notices are then compiled and mailed in November.

### YEAR TWO



In March, the County mails Property Tax Statements based on the prior year's assessments.

See future issues of *CityNews* for articles detailing Truth in Taxation and property tax calculations.

# Ready...Set...Run!

Help the community keep up its pace.

Plan now to join friends and neighbors this April for one of Golden Valley's most popular events, the annual *Run the Valley*, sponsored by the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation.

This 10K race and 5K run and walk, now in its 13th year, raises funds for organizations that benefit the community (see sidebar). In 2006, the event drew more than 540 participants and raised \$13,963.



10K RUN THE VALLEY RACERS

The certified course runs through residential Golden Valley—water stops and post-race complimentary snacks are provided. Participants will also receive a long-sleeve T-shirt (see related article below).

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 14, 8:30 am for 10K race and 8:35 am for the 5K run and walk

**WHERE:** Start and finish near the Davis Community Center parking lot at Meadowbrook Elementary (one block west of Hwy 100 at the intersection of Glenwood and Xenia Aves)

**HOW TO REGISTER:** Before April 12, in person or by mail with check, cash, or VISA/Mastercard to 200 Brookview Pkwy, 55426, or by phone (763-512-2345) or fax (763-512-2344) with VISA/Mastercard. Online at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) through April 11 or in person at Davis Community Center on race day from 7:15 to 8 am.

**COST:** Entry fee is \$20 before March 1, \$25 March 1-April 12, and \$35 the day of the race.

For more information, visit [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/runvalley.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/runvalley.htm), or call Park and Recreation at 763-512-2345.

## T-shirt DESIGN CONTEST

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

T-shirt designs must be turned in by February 2 at the Brookview Community Center. There is no particular message to convey. The designer may choose content and size as long as either the City of Golden Valley logo or the name "Golden Valley Human Services Foundation" appears somewhere within the design. The GVHSF reserves the right to add these features to the design if they are not included.

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. Submit design in camera-ready format for use by the printer (color separations preferred). The GVHSF will handle all printing.

The winning design is selected 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(s) will be awarded 10 T-shirts and will be acknowledged in *Golden Valley CityNews* and the *Sun-Post* newspaper. GVHSF will have sole ownership of the winning design and right to reuse it when desired.



## GVHSF SUPPORTS COMMUNITY



Since 1992, the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF) has worked to support organizations that serve Golden Valley residents. Each year, this board of citizen volunteers reviews funding requests and allocates funds raised by the Foundation through various annual fund-raisers, such as April's *Run the Valley* and September's *Golden Valley Golf Classic*. The Foundation also receives 10% of the pull tab monies collected in the City.

For 2007, the GVHSF allocated \$48,000 to nine local human service organizations: Northwest YMCA Detached Work Program (\$13,000), Home Free Domestic Assault Intervention Project (\$10,500), Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery (\$5,000), PRISM Food Shelf (\$5,000), Suburban Northwest Dinner at Your Door (\$5,000), Senior Community Services Home Program (\$3,000), Crisis Connection (\$2,500), Senior Community Service Outreach Program (\$2,000), and North Hennepin Mediation Program (\$2,000).

To qualify for funding, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- 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.

For more information about GVHSF activities and events, or to join the list of contributors and volunteers, please call 763-512-2345.

# GREEN Guide

The Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance offers several links and sources for more information on finding "green" materials for your building projects.

## WHERE TO START

Visit [www.greenguardian.com](http://www.greenguardian.com). This resource lists Twin Cities metro county options for reducing, reusing, recycling, and disposing of household products and materials.

## WHAT TO USE

- *Environmental Building News'* "Building Materials: What Makes a Product Green?" is an article that looks at environmental issues affecting building product choices. Read it at [www.buildinggreen.com/features/gp/green\\_products.cfm](http://www.buildinggreen.com/features/gp/green_products.cfm).
- GreenSpec ([www.buildinggreen.com/menus/](http://www.buildinggreen.com/menus/)) is a directory of green building products. It provides a searchable way to identify products with environmental attributes.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Minnesota Energy Info Center ([www.commerce.state.mn.us](http://www.commerce.state.mn.us)) offers downloadable home energy guides, conservation tips, and information about renewable energy. Click on "Energy Info Center."
- Energy Star ([www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)) lists products, manufacturers, and store locations for energy-efficient appliances, heating and cooling products, home electronics, lighting, windows, and doors.

## RECYCLED PRODUCTS

- Minnesota Recycled Products Directory ([www.moea.state.mn.us/rpdir/](http://www.moea.state.mn.us/rpdir/)) can be used to find building products made with recycled materials by Minnesota manufacturers.
- Recycle Minnesota ([www.recycleminnesota.org/html/ReProd.htm](http://www.recycleminnesota.org/html/ReProd.htm)) publishes a Recycled Products Guide online, with local retailers listed for each product.
- Minnesota Recycling Markets Directory ([www.moea.state.mn.us/market/markets/](http://www.moea.state.mn.us/market/markets/)) contains information on brokers, processors, and end markets to recycle your construction and demolition debris.

# Remodeling? Experts Encourage Going GREEN

When taking on a home remodeling project or building a new home, Golden Valley Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom encourages you to think green.

Using environmentally sound techniques in your remodel can make your home a healthier place to live and save you money in the long run.

Building green means "using design and construction techniques to achieve energy and water efficiency, healthy indoor air quality, inclusion of products that are better for the environment, and reduced material waste," states the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance (MOEA). The MOEA and Lundstrom offer the following tips for a green remodel.

## PLAN AHEAD

One of the main components to a green remodel is using recycled or salvaged materials. So plan ahead and give yourself time to track down material that can be reused. It's generally easier and less expensive to incorporate "green" materials in your remodel, but because green remodeling is a fairly new concept, it can take some effort finding the materials you need (see sidebar for some resources). One way to speed up the process is to get creative with your project. Got some leftover floorboards lying around your garage? Turn them into bookshelves. Tearing out an old sink? Make it into a birdbath. Use your imagination and have fun.

## CONSIDER A "NO BUILD" STRATEGY

Less construction means less waste, so figure out ways to build around and within existing structures, rather than tearing structures down or building entirely new ones. By the same token, plan your building so that its features will be easy to renovate, build around, or remove in the future.

## USE VEGETATION

If you're redoing your landscape, look for ways to prevent water runoff. Build a rain garden to absorb water. Plant more trees (see page 5). Or build a "green roof," which means to literally create a garden on top of your house. This helps reduce runoff and storm sewer maintenance and improve water quality.

## CONSULT

Before taking on a green remodel, consult with local officials or encourage your contractor to do so. Building officials are more likely to be supportive if they are aware of the process early on. It may be worth your while to seek out contractors who are already knowledgeable about building "green."

For more information on building green, visit [www.moea.state.mn.us/greenbuilding](http://www.moea.state.mn.us/greenbuilding).

## Golden Valley

### Recycles

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

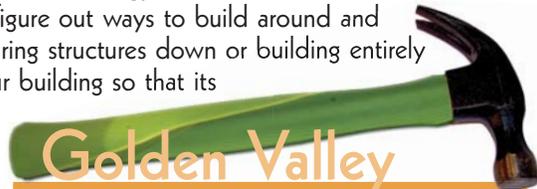
### Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Memorial Day	Sat, June 2
Fourth of July	Sat, July 7
Labor Day	Sat, Sept 8
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 24
Christmas	Sat, Dec 29
New Year's	Sat, Jan 5

### 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.



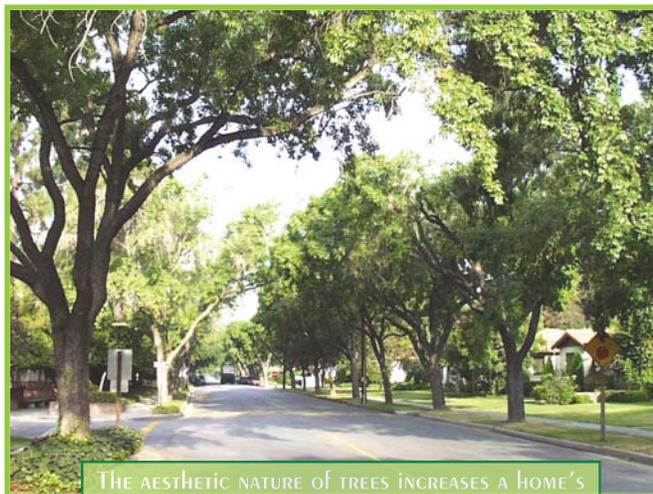
# Increase Your Property Value By Planting A Tree

Looking for a quick and easy way to supplement a home remodeling project? Planting a tree may be just the thing.

Homeowners who plant trees in their yards reap benefits for years to come, says Al Lundstrom, Golden Valley Environmental Coordinator.

Not only does the aesthetic nature of trees increase a home's property value (not to mention the mental well-being of people living in the neighborhood), but trees also significantly cut down on energy costs by protecting homes from cold winds during winter and providing shade during warmer months.

Golden Valley is entering its 20th year as a "tree city" with the Tree City USA program (see sidebar), making this an ideal year to plant a tree.



THE AESTHETIC NATURE OF TREES INCREASES A HOME'S VALUE AND MAKES NEIGHBORHOODS INVITING.

According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), trees benefit your home and community by providing financial, health, environmental, and social benefits.

## FINANCIAL BENEFITS

- Good, mature tree cover can increase the value of a developed property by up to 15 percent, and the value of an undeveloped property by up to 30 percent.
- Shade trees can reduce the cost of cooling by as much as 20 percent during hot summer months.
- Tree windbreaks can reduce the cost of heating during cold and windy months by as much as 20 percent, as well as prevent snowdrifts.

## HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- Being near wooded areas can reduce psychological and emotional stress. Medical studies have shown that patients recover faster in facilities surrounded with trees.
- Trees trap dust, remove pollutants from the air, and reduce the level of greenhouse gases while increasing oxygen levels.
- Wooded areas reduce water runoff by up to 35 percent and help prevent soil erosion. They also keep water cleaner through natural filtration.

## SOCIAL BENEFITS

- Trees reflect and absorb sound energy and block light trespassing, reducing noise pollution and glare.
- Trees provide screening and privacy.
- Trees improve the overall appearance of a home and neighborhood.

For more information, visit the Minnesota DNR Web site at [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us), then click on "Forestry" at the bottom of the page. 



## GOLDEN VALLEY: Tree City USA

To be a Tree City USA, cities must meet four standards established by The National Arbor Day Foundation—have a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance.

### TREE BOARD OR DEPARTMENT

The City of Golden Valley's Environmental and Open Space and Recreation Commissions include 16 board members between them.

### TREE CARE ORDINANCE

Golden Valley's shade tree disease ordinance, updated January 2, recognizes the threat of tree diseases and pests (namely Dutch Elm disease and oak wilt) to public and private trees in the urban forest. To protect public safety, welfare, property values within the community, the City's tree ordinance calls for regular tree inspections, diagnostics, and hazardous tree identification, and establishes disease removal procedures. To see the complete ordinance, visit [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us), click on "City Code," then click on "Chapter 10" and scroll down to 10.50.

### COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

A Tree City USA community forestry program must have an annual expenditure of at least twice the population of the city. Golden Valley's Forestry Department is responsible for tree disease management, tree maintenance (eg, trimming boulevard trees every winter), and tree replacement and removal. In 2006, the City planted 150 trees, pruned more than 500 trees, and identified more than 500 trees to be removed because of diseases and storm damage.

### ARBOR DAY OBSERVANCE

Arbor Day is April 27. This year's location for the City's celebration has yet to be determined.

Questions? Contact Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom at 763-593-8046. 

## Recreation OPPORTUNITIES

Find details on the following recreation opportunities in the Winter Recreation Activities Brochure or the City Web site.

### YOUTH ACTIVITIES

**Opportunity Fest**—Learn about new activities and opportunities, try carnival games, dance to DJ music. Event flyers will be distributed at schools. Mar 1, 5:30 pm, Crystal Community Center. FREE!

**Kid Smart**—A former police officer teaches kids how to handle themselves when approached by a stranger or bully. All participants get a courage medal and self defense booklet. Mar 10, 1–3 pm, Brookview Community Center, \$35.

**Rainforest Journey**—Travel in your imagination to a world where it's always warm, the trees are always green, and animals are alive everywhere you look. Mar 16, 9:45–11:15 am, Brookview Community Center, \$13.50/child.

**Indoor Nerf Soccer**—Recreational team fun. Volunteer coaches instruct games and officiate. T-shirts included. Mar 22–May 3, 6 or 7 pm, Davis Community Center, \$25.

### DAVIS COMMUNITY CENTER

**Shoot Some Buckets** (ages 7+ with adult)—Sun, 1–3 pm

**Family Open Gym Time**—Sat, 10–11:30 am; Sun, 1–3 pm.

**Adult Open Basketball**—Wed, 8–10 pm; Sat, 8–10 am

**Over 40 Basketball**—Mon, 8–10 pm

**Adult Co-Rec Volleyball**—Tues/Thurs, 8–10 pm

Register in person, by mail, phone, fax (763-512-2344), or online ([www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/econnect/](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/econnect/)).

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**

# Host Your Next Special Gathering At Brookview

If you're in the market for a pleasant, cost-effective venue for a party or group event, look no further than Brookview Community Center.



*Choose Brookview for any event from an elegant reception...*



*to a colorful fiesta...*



*set in a beautiful and blooming location!*

Nestled in the tranquil setting off Brookview Golf Course, the Brookview Community Center offers space year-round for gatherings of up to 200 guests. Facilities include a large banquet room with neutral decor, a caterer's kitchen, and a patio, deck, and gazebo that provide expansive golf course views. For small- to moderate-sized gatherings during colder months, the Brookview Grill offers the same views and a warm, comfortable atmosphere for up to 60 people.

### FEES

For parties and social events with more than 75 people, fees range from \$550–\$635 for up to 12 hours of use. Fee includes set-up/take-down and clean-up. For events with fewer than 75 people, fees range from \$25–\$35 per hour for up to five hours of use plus a \$25–\$35 set-up/take-down fee and a \$60 clean-up fee. All parties also must pay a refundable policy compliance/damage deposit.

For meetings, fees range from \$25–\$55 per hour (plus a \$25–\$55 set-up/takedown fee). Golden Valley civic and non-profit organizations ("Golden Valley" must be incorporated in the name) may use the Community Center free of charge during normal business hours (Monday–Friday, 8 am–5 pm) or for \$25 per hour, plus a \$25 set-up/takedown fee, outside of normal business hours.

### FOOD AND BEVERAGES

If you plan to serve food at your event, you must use a licensed caterer or food establishment. The food must be cooked in their licensed kitchen, but they may keep it hot or cold in the Community Center kitchen. Potluck meals are not permitted.

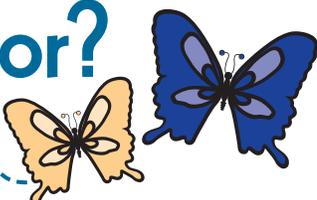
All service of alcoholic beverages must be provided by the City's contracted beverage provider. Any event that serves alcoholic beverages must also serve food.

### MORE INFORMATION

Brookview is conveniently located just west of Winnetka Ave between I-394 and Hwy 55. For more information, call 763-512-2345 or visit [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us) and select Brookview Golf or Parks, Recreation, & Leisure, then click on Brookview Community Center. 

# Nuisance Next Door?

## Be Neighborly



In neighbor relations, there are generally two dissatisfactions: safety or health issues and individual taste issues. Golden Valley has ordinances to protect overall community safety and health, and property maintenance issues (see pages 1, 8 and 9), but when it comes to matters of taste, neighbors sometimes just have to work through it together. In any case, if you have a problem with something your neighbor is (or isn't) doing, there are often neighborly ways to resolve it.

First of all, keep your cool and remember that most people do not intentionally annoy their neighbors. Next, find out if the neighbor's behavior is actually a violation of an ordinance. If it is, here are some tips for dealing with the issue.

**Get the facts.** Is the issue a one-time problem or a constant occurrence? Figure out who is responsible for the disturbance so you can address the proper party.

**Vent your feelings to a friend or spouse before you approach your neighbor.** Write out your issue so you're clear about what is bothering you and what you want done. Write a letter presenting your concern(s) if you are uncomfortable meeting in person.

**Arrange a time to meet with your neighbor, and choose a neutral location.** When you get together, speak calmly and stick to the facts. The goal is to create a cooperative atmosphere. Attacking your neighbor won't help. Instead, ask for help finding a solution.

**Give objective reasons why the behavior may not be in the best interest of the neighborhood.** Find common ground and focus on what you do agree on. If necessary, tactfully point out the ordinance in question.

**Couple a complaint with a suggested solution, and search for a solution that satisfies everyone.** You may not get exactly what you want, but good relations with your neighbors are certainly worth some compromise.

**Be open.** Neighborly relations are a two-way street. If your neighbor approaches you with a legitimate complaint—listen and be open. If you can't reach an agreement, inform the City about your complaint or use a mediation service to resolve the matter. ~



## City Will Enforce Property Maintenance Violations

Golden Valley's new Residential Property Maintenance Code (RPMC) will impose penalties on property owners who refuse to comply (see page 1 for complete story).

If a property or structure does not comply with one or more RPMC provision, the City's Property Maintenance Inspector (PMI) will issue an order detailing the violations, establishing a reasonable time for correction, and ordering the owner or occupant to correct the violations. The responsible party must correct the violation within the time indicated on the notification (compliance times will be based on type of violation). If, after re-inspection, the violation has not been corrected as ordered, the PMI will issue an administrative citation. A separate, additional violation occurs for each day an offender is out of compliance.

Administrative citations must be paid within 20 days. Payment of any fine does not excuse the failure to correct the violation, nor does it stop further enforcement by the City. If fines remain unpaid, the City may suspend or revoke any license or permit held by the offenders.

Property owners who are served a compliance order or administrative citation may appeal in writing to the City Council within 10 days. Failure to appeal waives all rights to contest. If you have questions about the RPMC administrative citation, contact Property Maintenance Inspector Angela Obert at 763-593-8074. ~

## SENIOR Stuff

Most activities are at Brookview Community Center and require advance registration.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**My Funny Valentine Party—Feb 16, 1–2:30 pm,** Crystal Community Center. Enjoy dessert, love stories, and fun. Wear red or pink to be eligible for a prize. \$5. Register by Feb 9.

### GETTING THROUGH THE MEDICARE MEDIQAP MAZE

**Feb 13 and Mar 13 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 for an appointment.

### UPCOMING TRIPS (REGISTER EARLY)

**Feb 23: "Meandering With Mary"** to St Paul's new celebrity-owned book store, the Conservatory, and lunch at Zöbota Café, 9:30 am–3 pm. \$5.50/person plus \$2 donation at Conservatory. Includes bus, tour, and escort. Register by Feb 16.

**Apr 16: "Gospel According to St Mark"** performed by Tom Stolz at Peace Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, 9 am–4:30 pm. \$46/person includes lunch, performance, tax, gratuity, motorcoach, and escort. Register by Mar 19.

**May 7–9: "Jelly Bellys, Golden Domes, and More."** Three-day trip through Wisconsin, tours of the Jelly Belly Center, the University of Notre Dame, and Shipshewana (the third largest Amish community in the US). \$460/double room, \$560/single room includes lodging, tours, all meals (except one lunch), escort, deluxe motorcoach, taxes, and gratuities. \$100 deposit by Mar 12.

**Seniors Program:** Send a \$5 donation to the Senior Program and receive six issues of the senior newsletter by mail.

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

# Give Your Home A Quarterly

*Avoid penalties by being proactive*

With Golden Valley taking a more active approach to property maintenance, City inspectors encourage homeowners to be more proactive.

When it comes to the minimum maintenance of your home's exterior, inspectors stress common sense. If parts of your home look like they need repair, then repair them. If something on your property is falling apart, get it fixed, or replace it. A quarterly checkup and some basic tools are all it takes to keep your home in shape, your neighbors happy, and your property values stable.



## Want To Learn More?

Contact Property Maintenance Inspector Angela Obert at 763-593-8074, or look up the code online at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citycode1/index.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citycode1/index.htm). Click on Chapter 4, and then click on Section 4.6.

# Checkup

## Room to Improve? Call An Expert

Golden Valley residents have a new home improvement tool at their disposal: on-site, expert advice for no out-of-pocket cost.

Homeowners looking to do home improvements can call on the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) Financial Resources and have an expert sent to their home for inspection, advice, and unbiased opinions. CEE officials will even help homeowners list priorities for future improvement projects.

To further pursue a more active approach to community-wide property maintenance, the City of Golden Valley contracted with the non-profit CEE this January. CEE's services are funded by the City for the benefit of all property owners.

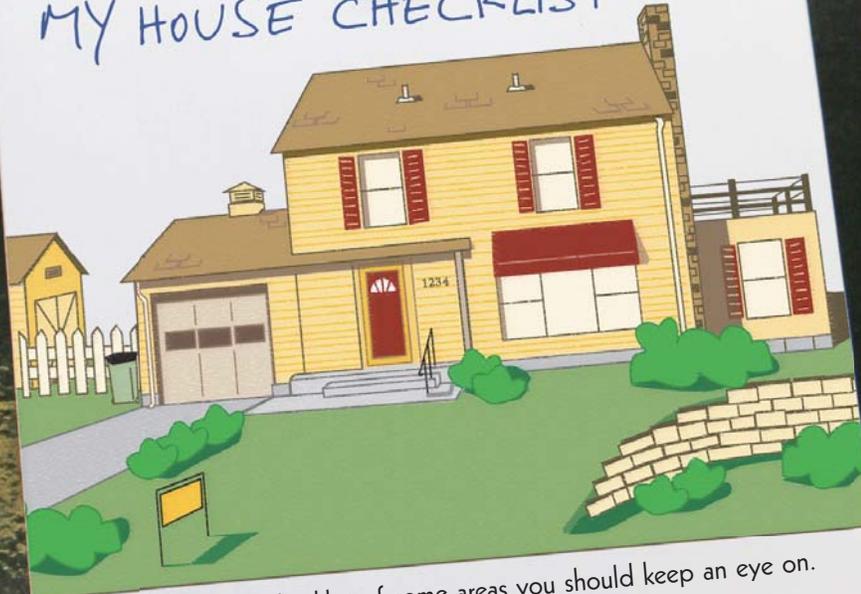
Golden Valley residents who want help planning their home improvement project can call the CEE at 612-335-5856.

The goal of CEE Financial Resources is to assist homeowners through the home improvement and remodeling process by offering advisor services and low-cost, affordable financing.

For questions about the service, contact CEE Program Administrator Kristin DeGrande at 612-335-5881.



### MY HOUSE CHECKLIST



Here's a basic checklist of some areas you should keep an eye on.

- Foundation:** Is the building supported evenly at all points? Are the walls and roof in good condition? Check for decay, peeling, and loose material.
- Accessory structures:** Are the buildings structurally sound and securable?
- Windows and entries:** Are they weather tight, watertight and rodent proof? Are they screened and in good working condition?
- Gutters and downspouts:** Do they properly drain water away from buildings, walkways, streets, and sanitary sewer systems?
- Walks, drives, lawn steps, and stoops:** Are they in good condition and safe?
- Sanitation:** Is your garbage being stored and disposed of in the proper places? Is your yard clean?
- Wood storage:** Is your firewood cut in uniform shapes 30-inches long or less and set in neat, secure stacks? (No wood except firewood and construction materials is allowed to be stored on a residential site.)

See illustration for additional areas to check.

Chimney

Walls

Deck

Foundation

Yard

## UPDATED NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH UNDER WAY

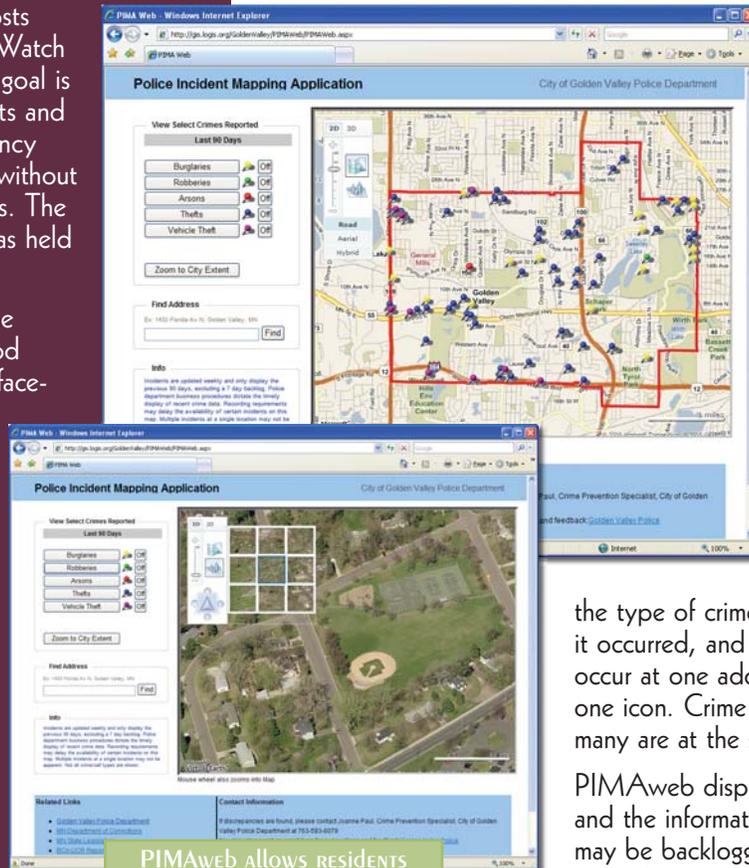
In an effort to expand Neighborhood Watch and work towards the City Council's *Envision*-related goals of encouraging community connections, the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) now hosts annual Neighborhood Watch meetings by zone. The goal is to involve more residents and increase meeting frequency and participation rates without increasing staff resources. The first all-zone meeting was held in October.

The GVPD believes the enhanced Neighborhood Watch will increase its face-to-face contact with participants, encourage better communication, and allow for more neighborhoods to participate. In addition, it will provide an opportunity for residents to get to know people who may live a few blocks away but are still in their area. The change may be refreshing for groups that have been involved since the inception of Neighborhood Watch in the mid-1980s and for groups that find it difficult to schedule their meetings.

For more information about Golden Valley's Neighborhood Watch program, go to [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/public-safety/neighborhoodwatch.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/public-safety/neighborhoodwatch.htm). If you're interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch in your area, contact Crime Prevention Specialist Joanne Paul at 763-593-8058 or [jpaul@ci.golden-valley.mn.us](mailto:jpaul@ci.golden-valley.mn.us).

# City Introduces Interactive Crime Maps

Being informed about crime in your community is the first step toward prevention, and Golden Valley residents can now stay updated on crime in their neighborhoods by using a new interactive map on the City Web site. PIMAweb (Police Incident Mapping Application) allows users to view a map identifying the locations for certain reported crimes in the city.



PIMAweb allows residents to view crimes in their neighborhoods both 2- and 3-dimensionally.

## How PIMAweb Works

The Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) takes reports of all crimes that occur within the city. These reports are entered into a records management system, which in turn provides incident data for the crime maps. Included incidents are public information and those the police believe most greatly affect the quality of life in Golden Valley.

All incidents are mapped to specific addresses or intersections. Users can search by address as well as view specific crimes (burglary, robbery, arson, theft, and vehicle theft). When users point the cursor over a crime icon, a pop-up box appears showing

the type of crime, the date, time, and street address where it occurred, and the case number. When multiple incidents occur at one address or location, the map will show only one icon. Crime icons may be turned on or off to see how many are at the same location.

PIMAweb displays selected crimes for the last 90 days, and the information is refreshed every week. Recent data may be backlogged and not displayed. For crimes reported more than 90 days ago, users can view static crime maps on the Web site.

## Enhancing Quality Of Life

"We've been posting monthly static crime maps on the Web site since early 2005, but PIMAweb takes the concept a step further," explains Crime Prevention Specialist Joanne Paul. "The Golden Valley Police Department is committed to using technology to communicate with residents and help prevent crime in Golden Valley. Increasing our presence on the Web and the availability of crime information will go a long way towards enhancing the quality of life for all."

Golden Valley was one of 13 metro cities that worked with Local Government Information Systems (LOGIS) to develop PIMAweb. LOGIS, a consortium of Minnesota cities that collaborate on technology, is based in Golden Valley.

To view the interactive map, go to [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/publicsafety/crimestats.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/publicsafety/crimestats.htm).

If you need more specific or detailed information than what is currently offered on the Web site, contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 763-593-8058.

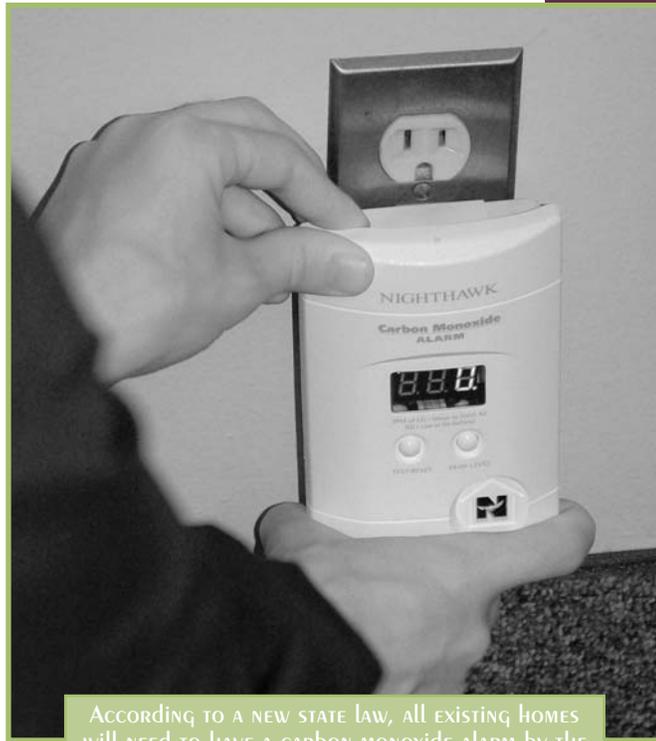
# State Takes Stricter Measure Against Silent Killer

The silent killer faces louder opposition this year.

Carbon monoxide (CO) detectors, once a precaution installed at a homeowner's discretion, are now required by Minnesota law.

Effective January 1, all newly constructed single family homes and multi-dwelling apartments must have a state-approved carbon monoxide alarm system. All existing homes will need an alarm installed by the end of summer 2008. All existing apartments will need carbon monoxide alarms in all units by summer 2009. (See sidebar for details on installation requirements and exceptions). Failure to install or maintain the detectors as required is a violation of state statute.

The law was passed during the 2006 Minnesota Legislative session. Representative Denny McNamara (R-Hastings) sponsored the detector bill in the House. His brother-in-law died in a Greater Minnesota cabin after mice built a nest in the furnace's ductwork, causing a CO leak.



ACCORDING TO A NEW STATE LAW, ALL EXISTING HOMES WILL NEED TO HAVE A CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM BY THE END OF SUMMER 2008.

## KEEPING CO GASSES OUT

According to the Minnesota Department of Health, CO is an odorless, colorless gas, often a byproduct of burning, that interferes with normal oxygen uptake. It's dangerous because the human body mistakes CO for oxygen, leading to a replacement of oxygen molecules in the bloodstream with CO molecules. The first signs of CO poisoning may include headaches and breathlessness. Longer exposure may lead to flu-like symptoms.

CO is most likely to accumulate inside homes during the winter—when the heating system is in use and the home has been sealed and insulated against the cold. To help prevent CO buildup, follow the preventive measures below.

- Make sure your heating system and all fuel burning appliances are adequately vented and properly maintained.
- Make sure your furnace has an adequate air intake.
- Provide adequate ventilation when using fireplaces, wood stoves, or space heaters.
- Don't use gasoline engines or burn charcoal in enclosed spaces.
- Don't use gas stoves or ovens to heat living areas.
- Rely on a qualified technician to install furnaces and other fuel-burning appliances.
- Do a furnace check and check all fuel-burning appliances in the fall.

For more information, visit [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) or call Fire Education Specialist/Training Coordinator Sarah Larson at 763-593-3977.

## Q&A: CO LAW

Where should my carbon monoxide alarm be located?

The alarm must be within 10 feet of any sleeping area. If bedrooms are located on separate floors, more than one alarm will be required. They must be hardwired, plugged into an electrical outlet without a switch, or, if the alarm is battery powered, attached to a wall. (Treat the alarms like smoke alarms, replacing batteries when needed and never disabling them.)

When do I have to do this?

If your home was constructed after January 1, the alarms must be installed immediately. For existing homes, residents need to install the alarms by August 2008.

Are there exceptions?

If a property owner can prove that the home contains minimal or no sources of carbon monoxide, an alarm is not required.

Carbon Monoxide

## By The Numbers

At least  
**2000**

Americans are killed by acute CO poisoning each year

Approximately  
**12,000**

Americans are treated or examined for non-fire related CO poisoning each year.

At least  
**1**

CO alarm should be on every level of your home for optimal safety.

Source: Minnesota Department of Health

## I/I PROBLEM IS A DRAIN ON FUNDS

Inflow and infiltration (I/I), or the excess flow of clear water into the City's sanitary sewer system, is costing the City about \$380,000 annually for system adjustments to correct the problem. If nothing is done, the Metropolitan Council will charge the City much more based on the amount of excess flow. At current I/I rates, the regional wastewater treatment system's capacity cannot meet projected needs.

Inflow is commonly traced to sump pumps (used by many home-owners to keep clear water out of their basements) that are cross-connected to discharge into the City's sanitary sewer system. They are often incorrectly 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.

Treating clean run-off and ground water costs about \$300–\$400 million annually. If the inflow exceeds the sanitary sewer system's capacity and causes wastewater to spill out of a manhole or back up into basements, there are added clean-up costs and federal and state fines.

The most cost-effective way of dealing with the I/I problem is a region-wide effort to disconnect sump pumps and foundation drains connected to sanitary sewers and to repair leaky sanitary sewer pipes. For more information about I/I funding, call 763-593-8010.



## City Increases Utility Fees

At its December 19, 2006 meeting, the Golden Valley City Council approved a rate increase for residential and commercial City utility customers effective March 1. The increase is largely due to the \$2.45 million the City is spending on water and sanitary sewer replacement and renewal projects for 2007. A main goal of the projects is to prevent inflow and infiltration (see sidebar).

Sample Residential Utility Increase For Homes Using 25,000 Gallons Of Water			
	2006	2007	Difference
Water	\$88.75	\$93	5%
Sewer	\$51	\$56.10	10%
State	\$1.59	\$1.59	0%
Recycling	\$8	\$8	0%
Street Light	\$7	\$8	14%
Storm Utility	\$21	\$22	5%
ACH Payment	-\$1	-\$1	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$176.34</b>	<b>\$187.69</b>	<b>6%</b>

Overall, an average home using 25,000 gallons of water will see an approximate six percent increase. Sanitary sewer fees will increase 10 percent on residential flat rate and 14 percent based on usage. Water rates will increase 5 percent, and storm utility rates will increase 5 percent. Streetlight fees will increase to follow the streetlight policy (which pays for half of the maintenance of the citywide streetlight system). See box below for a breakdown of rate increases for an average residential property.

Golden Valley manages its water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and recycling funds as enterprise funds. This means the amount you pay for those utilities covers the entire cost of providing the service, including maintenance and repair of each system. Property taxes do not fund anything related to those utilities.

### UNDERSTANDING YOUR UTILITY BILL

Your utility bill, sent out quarterly, is divided into two parts. The top half you return with your payment, the bottom half you keep for your records. The "Account Summary" box on the left side of your bill is an itemized report of the amount you owe.

- **Previous Bill:** Amount of your last utility bill. If your bill is higher this time, you are using more water.
- **Payments:** Amount you paid on your last bill. More than likely, you have paid the bill in full and your payment will be equal to your previous bill.
- **Adjustments & Penalties:** If there are adjustments to your bill, or if you were late with your last payment, the amount you are penalized or credited will show up here.

The next several lines itemize various utility charges you must pay each quarter.

- **Water:** Golden Valley buys its water from the City of Minneapolis. The amount you owe depends on the number of gallons you used during the billing period. This includes a base rate (\$18.60) for 5,000 gallons as well as a rate (\$3.72) for each 1,000 gallons used over that amount.
- **Sewer:** Residents are charged a flat rate for each billing period to cover costs for the disposal and treatment of sewage via metrowide sewage treatment plants operated by Metropolitan Council Environmental Services.
- **State of MN:** The State charges Golden Valley to test its water for impurities. This charge is passed through to the City's customers.
- **Recycling:** Almost one third of Golden Valley's weekly curbside recycling program is funded by Hennepin County. Your fee covers the remainder of the program as well as the City's Spring Brush Pick-Up and Fall Leaf Drop-Off.
- **Storm Drainage:** This fee, which covers street and storm pond cleaning, is based on acreage and type of property use (typical residential lot is 1/3 acre).
- **Streetlights:** Residents who directly benefit from a standard streetlight are charged for half the cost of operating the light (property taxes cover the rest). The fee is slightly higher for decorative streetlights.
- **Cert:** Administrative fee charged annually to residents who aren't paying their utility bills. The fee is then certified to their property tax bill.

If you have questions regarding your bill, contact the utility billing clerk at 763-593-8016.

# Does Your Project Need An Erosion Control Permit?

Any type of building project where the ground is disturbed has the potential to cause erosion or drainage problems. In 1999, the City of Golden Valley enacted regulations and procedures to minimize these problems. Now, anyone who wants to grade, fill, excavate, store, or dispose of soil or earth materials or perform any other land-disturbing or land-filling activity must first get a permit from the City.

## PLANNING PHASE

As you plan your project, there are several important points to consider:

- How does your site drain now, and how will it drain after construction? Will the resulting drainage affect your neighbors' properties?
- Does your site have any steep slopes? Are you close to a wetland, creek, or water body? Do you have a storm drain in your yard, in the street in front of your house, or within 100 feet of your construction project?
- How long will soils be exposed (one month, one year, more)?
- During construction, could any exposed soils travel across your property line and into the street, a water body, or a neighbor's property? Could vehicles and equipment travel across your property line and into a neighbor's property, or track dirt and mud into the street?
- Are you adding an impervious surface, like a roof or driveway?
- How do you plan to stabilize or re-vegetate your site?

## PERMIT AND INSPECTION PHASE

Submit a Grading, Drainage, and Erosion Control application and all required forms and fees to the City's Public Works Department. Please allow a minimum of seven to 10 days for review. If revisions are required, more time may be necessary.

After the permit is issued, install all erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) according to plan (see sidebar), then call Public Works to request an *Initial Inspection*. This inspection must be completed before a building permit can be issued.

When grading is finished and all final stabilization methods are installed, call the City for a *Project Complete Inspection*. A one-year warranty begins after the inspector approves the project. When that year is up, the City will conduct a *Warranty Inspection* to confirm permanent stabilization measures have been successful and vegetation is established. If approved, your security deposit will be returned.

Erosion from construction sites is a leading cause of water quality problems. By monitoring and inspecting projects, the City can help reduce erosion and sediment deposits that enter the storm sewer system. This helps prevent flooding problems that can damage property and limits the amount of sediment deposited into lakes, streams, and ponds in Golden Valley.

Questions? Contact Golden Valley Public Works at 763-593-8030. 

## BMPs Help CONTROL EROSION

If drainage or erosion could be an issue on your site, you may need to install or implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) during and after construction. BMPs include:

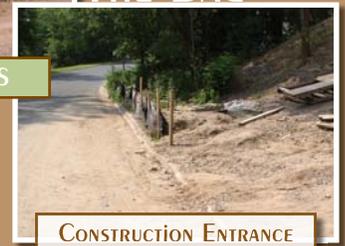
- limiting the time soils are exposed
- sweeping your street and driveway
- installing a silt fence or straw bales
- covering soil piles with tarps
- installing rock filter berms at construction entrances (where no driveway exists)
- installing storm sewer inlet filters, temporary sediment basins, swales, silt traps
- using erosion control mats, fiber blankets, or straw mulch and netting to hold soil and seed in place

### BMPs: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY



POORLY MANAGED BMPs

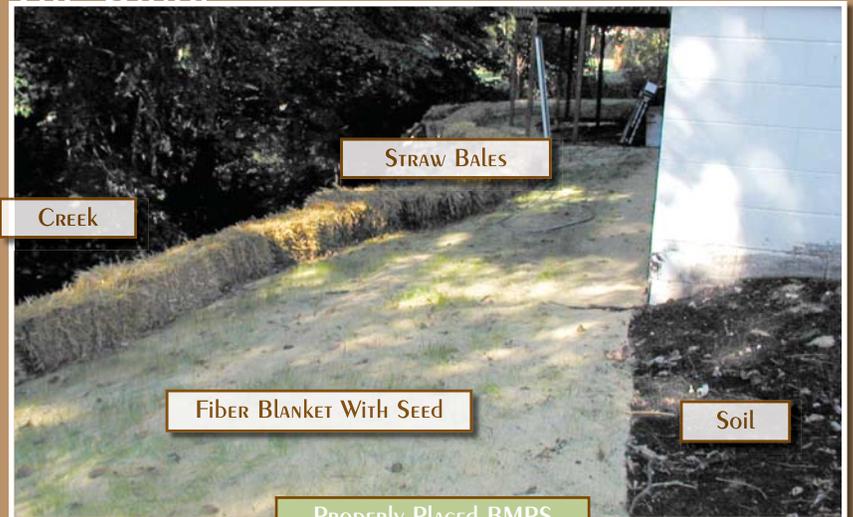
#### THE BAD



CONSTRUCTION ENTRANCE

To be effective, Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Erosion Control must be installed correctly and properly maintained.

#### THE GOOD



FIBER BLANKET WITH SEED

Soil

PROPERLY PLACED BMPs

# CITY COMMENTS ON NEIGHBORING DEVELOPMENT

Sometimes your neighborhood isn't even in your own city.

Duke Realty is studying development options (see box below) for the south-west corner of the I-394 and Hwy 100 intersection. Although it is mostly in St Louis Park, a portion is in Golden Valley.

Because the study area is large (43.5 acres) and complex (existing buildings will be torn down to make way for the new), the City of St Louis Park was required by state law to conduct an Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) to consider impacts on surrounding areas.

The draft AUAR identified all environmental impacts but focused on water, City infrastructure, and traffic. Results were presented to regional agencies and adjacent jurisdictions for a 30-day comment period that ended January 17. Along with other jurisdictions, the City of Golden Valley has presented comments on the AUAR. A final AUAR report will address those comments and ways to resolve identified problems. Commenting parties then have 10 days to respond to the proposed mitigation, which will be considered by St Louis Park and Golden Valley as they work with the developer on planning and zoning approvals.

The draft West End AUAR is available at the Golden Valley Library and on line at [www.stlouispark.org/development\\_projects.htm#1544](http://www.stlouispark.org/development_projects.htm#1544).

If you have questions about the AUAR, contact Planning Director Mark Grimes at 763-593-8095.

RANGE OF DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS STUDIED	
Type	Square Feet
Office	900,000–2,000,000
Retail	350,000–500,000
Residential	175,000–1,260,000
Total	1,530,000–3,085,000

# Why Is All That Traffic On MY Street?

If you feel there's more traffic on your residential street and that "outside traffic" seems to cut through your neighborhood, you are not alone. The City of Golden Valley hears several such concerns each year. In fact, citizens nationwide are concerned about neighborhood traffic issues. That has Cities, including Golden Valley, taking a more proactive approach to neighborhood traffic management.

To determine the scope of the concern, City staff reviews street or neighborhood traffic patterns and makes actual traffic counts. Most often, staff finds the traffic is composed of neighbors. How does the City know this? It compares estimated traffic volumes and patterns from the area to actual traffic volumes.

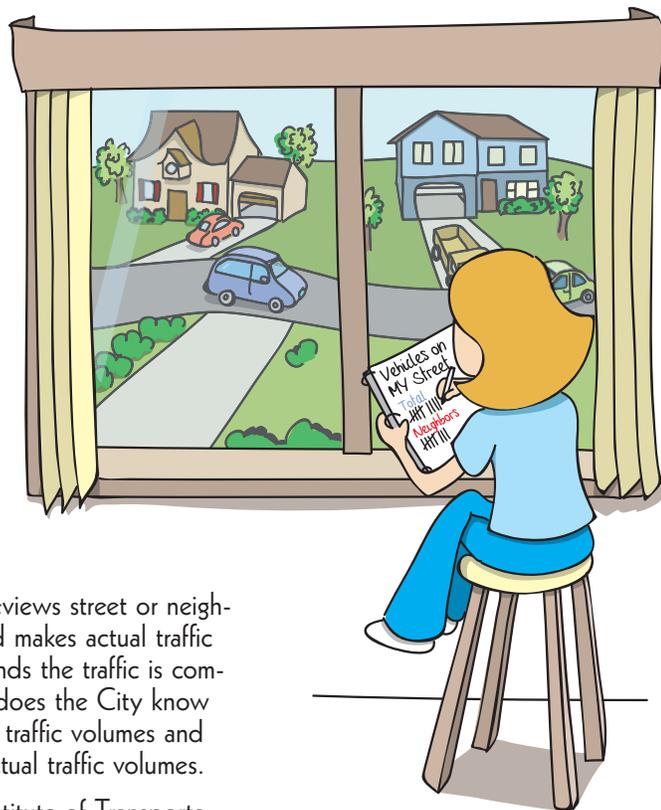
For about 50 years, the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) has been studying traffic volumes in neighborhoods nationwide using traffic counters, census data, or interviews with residents. The ITE estimates traffic volumes for each type of land use, then publishes the results to be used as a resource by engineers in cities and counties across the country. For example, a single family home will average 9.5 trips per day. Sound high? Visualize your neighborhood.

Each time a vehicle arrives at or leaves your residence, it generates one trip. If two residents leave home separately for work and return later that day, they have accounted for four trips. Add a teenager going to and from school and then to and from the library and you have eight trips. While an empty nest home may only generate six trips a day, that would be offset by a large family with a lot of after-school activities, resulting in the average of 9.5 trips per day. Trip rates can also be affected by activities such as electronic banking, on-line buying, and in-home entertainment.

Transportation planners also estimate trip types from residences and link them to destinations. For example, a trip to the store and back creates two trips at home and two trips at the store. Computer programs are used for larger area studies, but estimates can be done for a single neighborhood.

By establishing the number of trips expected from a neighborhood and connecting them to probable areas of the destinations, City staff can estimate traffic volumes for neighborhood streets. Comparing this to traffic counts can help determine where the traffic is coming from. Observations of traffic in neighborhoods often confirm the traffic conclusions. Most of the time, the volumes and patterns show the traffic to be your neighbors, just as you are part of the traffic past someone else's home.

If you don't think your neighborhood generates 9.5 trips per day per house, try counting all of your trips for a week. Keep track of your visitors and don't forget deliveries and services. The results may surprise you.



# Identify And Fix Radon Problems In Your Home

In the time it takes you to read these words, you'll inhale once or twice. You'll breathe in life-sustaining oxygen and, perhaps, some pleasant aromas from your kitchen. But you might also be inhaling a potentially harmful substance.

That substance is radon, a naturally occurring, gaseous form of ionizing radiation. It originates in soil and seeps into houses through cracks in basement walls, floors, and concrete slabs. Once inside, radon can linger and be inhaled—especially in winter, when windows are constantly closed.

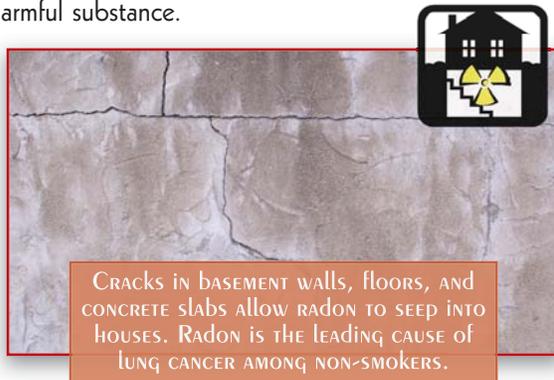
The Surgeon General has ranked radon as the leading cause of lung cancer in the United States among non-smokers. The Centers for Disease Control, American Medical Association, and American Lung Association also call radon a serious public health risk. Closer to home, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lists Hennepin County as a "Zone 1" high-potential radon region, where one in every three homes is likely to have elevated radon levels.

The good news is that it's relatively easy and affordable to protect your family from radon in your home—but first you need to know whether or not it's there. Since radon is invisible and odorless, detection requires a special kit—an air-sampling device first exposed to a room's interior air for four to seven days and then sent to a lab for analysis.

Hennepin County Public Health Protection recently mailed an informational letter to Golden Valley homeowners and offered these radon test kits for \$9 (or two for \$17). Both prices include lab analysis and a results report. Order forms, which were enclosed in the mailing, may also be downloaded at [www.hennepin.us](http://www.hennepin.us) (input "radon kit" in the Search box). Similar kits are available at home improvement stores and on the Internet.

If a test indicates high levels of radon in your home, Hennepin County Public Health Protection can provide a list of certified radon mitigators in your area. For more information, contact Hennepin County Public Health Protection at 612-543-5225.

*This article courtesy of  
Hennepin County Public Health Protection*



## FINDING THE RIGHT CONTRACTOR

If you're planning building projects you will not be working on yourself, here are some suggestions when selecting a contractor:

- Make sure the contractor has a state license for residential construction.
- Check references and make sure they're valid.
- Check with the State Commerce Department (651-284-5065) to see if any complaints have been registered about the contractor.
- Make sure the contractor's qualifications match your needs.

For more information on hiring contractors, visit [www.doli.state.mn.us](http://www.doli.state.mn.us) and click on "construction codes and licensing," then click on "residential building contractors."

## GOT A BUILDING PROJECT? GET YOUR PERMIT NOW

Don't get sidetracked. If you're planning a building project this spring, now's a good time to get your permit. Most home improvements require permits to ensure projects are up to code to meet minimum requirements for safety and material. Examples of projects requiring permits include:

- construction of a new dwelling
- construction of a shed greater than 120 square feet
- construction of garages or room additions
- construction of a deck, porch, or gazebo
- construction of a swimming pool
- reroofing or residing a house or garage
- window replacement
- furnace, air conditioning, or water heater replacement
- fireplace, chimney, or wood stove installation
- drain tile installation
- in-floor heating system installation
- new installations and alterations to the plumbing system
- alterations or repairs to electrical systems
- finishing the lower level or a room in the basement
- interior remodeling
- building retaining walls more than 48 inches higher than grade

If a contractor is doing most of the work, keep in mind he or she is responsible for obtaining the permit, NOT you. If you sign a permit for a project you didn't work on, you become liable for any mistakes the contractor might have made, even if those mistakes are discovered well after you've sold the property. (See sidebar for information on hiring a contractor.)

Permitted work is not approved until the final inspection has been conducted.

Call 763-593-8090 to find out if your project requires a permit.



## SEMINARS & DEMONSTRATIONS

- Remodeling Planning 101
- Kitchen and Bath Remodeling: Trends and Cost-Effective Solutions
- Your Dream Kitchen on a Budget
- Quick and Easy Bathroom Makeovers
- Choosing the Right Countertops for Kitchens and Baths
- Decks and Three- and Four-Season Porches
- Ceramic Tiling
- Laminate Flooring Installation
- Window Replacement
- Retrofitting Windows
- ABCs of Interior Design
- Build and dECOrate Green
- Why Rain Gardens?
- Spring Into Landscaping
- New Trends in Landscape Design

### IF YOU GO...

**WHAT:** The annual *Home Remodeling Fair*

**WHEN:** Sunday, Feb. 25, from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm

**WHERE:** Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Hwy 7, Hopkins (one mile west of Hwys 7 and 169). Parking is available at the Community Center, and free shuttle service is available from the parking lot at Oak Ridge Country Club (two blocks north of Hwy 7 on 5th Ave/Oak Ridge Rd). Watch for signs.

**COST:** Free

# Remodeling Fair Is Back

It's time again for the free *Home Remodeling Fair*, an indispensable tool for the homeowner—do-it-yourselfer or not.

The 16th *Home Remodeling Fair*, a multi-city effort to boost housing conditions throughout the western suburbs, will feature nearly 100 exhibitors, many free seminars, and an "Ask the Pro" booth (see box and sidebar for details).

Exhibitors include architects, landscapers, designers, electricians, roofers, lenders, city inspectors, and more. There will be free seminars and demonstrations, architects and interior designers at the "Ask the Pro" no-obligation advice booth (bring your photos, sketches, and questions), and food concessions in the cafeteria.

Sponsors are the Cities of Golden Valley, St Louis Park, Hopkins, and Minnetonka and St Louis Park, Hopkins, and Minnetonka Community Education. Co-sponsors are Beautiful Kitchens and Baths, Boyer Building Corp, Damschen Wood, Inc, Heritage Builders, Home Works Remodeling & Repair, Inc, JW Williams Construction, Inc, Knight Construction Design, Mon-Ray, Inc, Neighborhood Building & Remodeling Co, Owens Corning Basement Finishing System/Great Lakes Windows & Siding, Renewal by Andersen, and White Crane Construction.

For more information, go to [www.homeremodelingfair.com](http://www.homeremodelingfair.com) or contact Golden Valley's property maintenance inspector at 763-593-8074.



City of  
**Golden Valley**

763-593-8000 TTY: 763-593-3968

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS

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GRAPHIC DESIGNER | KRISTI THOMPSON



This document is available in alternate formats upon a 72-hour request.

Please call 763-593-8006 (TTY: 763-593-3968) to make a request.

Examples of alternate formats may include large print, electronic, Braille, audiocassette, etc.



City of  
**Golden Valley**

7800 Golden Valley Road  
Golden Valley, MN 55427

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**ECRWSS**  
**Postal Customer**

**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.