

# Golden Valley

## CITYNEWS

### Cities Looking To Clean Up **GRAFFITI** Problem

Golden Valley and surrounding cities have started a cooperative effort this year to crack down on graffiti, a general eyesore and growing nuisance. Graffiti cases have increased over the last few years, says Joanne Paul, Golden Valley's crime prevention specialist.

While part of the concern stems from gang use of graffiti, the most widespread problems are simple defacement issues, such as permanent marker scribbled on a stop sign, Paul says. Though individually these cases may seem minor, they have a cumulative effect that diminishes the overall appearance of the community.

So police are encouraging residents to report graffiti when they see it. As is, graffiti cases are grossly under reported. Even if it is just a marker scribble, it's a piece of vandalism that should be documented and cleaned up, Paul says. When it comes to reversing this graffiti trend, every little bit helps.

Under the City's new program, all graffiti reports in Golden Valley will be handled by a single police officer rather than whoever gets the call, to help keep the cases organized. "It's so nothing falls through the cracks," Paul explains. "Part of the officer's job is documenting graffiti cases, in written reports and photographs, and creating a database we all use."

That database will be shared with surrounding communities. Cities in the western suburbs, including Hopkins, St Louis Park, Brooklyn Park, and Minnetonka, have established an information-sharing program to help identify patterns and track repeat offenders.

"We want to nip it before it becomes a huge problem," Paul says. "To report graffiti, call the Golden Valley Police at 763-593-8079."

### State Of The City Update Is Feb 21

The Golden Valley City Council will present its 2008 State of the City Community Update Tuesday, Feb 19, at 6:30 pm and Thursday, Feb 21, 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 fifth year the report will be presented in a video format.

This year's State of the City will focus on reinvesting in the community and nurturing its assets. It will highlight recent and upcoming projects in development, transportation, community engagement, environment, recreation, and government, with a specific focus on the importance of keeping an aging first-ring suburb vital and appealing.

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

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## GET YOUR PASSPORTS AT GV DMV

If you're hoping to fly anywhere outside the country this year, you're going to need a passport.

But don't wait until the last minute. The documentation takes four to six weeks to process (you may shorten processing time to two to three weeks with an additional charge of \$60). So if you're planning a spring trip, apply for a passport now.

The Golden Valley Department of Motor Vehicles, on the ground level of City Hall, has been issuing passports since 2005.

Cost for adults is \$112 (\$67 for the passport, with a \$30 processing fee and \$15 photo fee). For those under age 16 the cost is \$97 (\$52 for the passport, with the same processing and photo fees). Both parents must also be present. The DMV accepts cash, checks, and money orders, but not credit cards.

Here's what you need to bring:

- proof of citizenship (such as a birth certificate)
- two checks, one payable to the US Department of State and one payable to the City of Golden Valley
- paper work (optional)
- a 2"x2" photo of yourself against a white background (optional)

Fill out the paperwork at the DMV, or save some time and do it beforehand at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) (click on the "Passports" link). Remember to bring the printouts with you.

Passports expire after 10 years for adults and after five years for those under 16.

Owning a passport is more important than ever. Under new border security laws, even just driving to Canada can be difficult without a passport or birth certificate, and beginning in June 2009, it may be illegal without a passport.

The Golden Valley DMV is open weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm and Tuesdays until 6 pm. Call 763-593-8101 for more details.

## Minimum Rates For Water: What's Up With That?

City water rates are straightforward if you think of them as covering three main items: the actual product (water), the service (delivery of water), and infrastructure maintenance (care and improvement of the City's water system as a whole).

Golden Valley buys its water from the City of Minneapolis. The amount you owe for water depends on the number of gallons you use during the billing period. This includes a minimum rate for 5,000 gallons quarterly as well as a rate for each 1,000 gallons used over that amount.

**MINIMUM RATES** The minimum rate covers maintenance of the distribution systems (water main lines, towers, pump stations, reservoirs), replacement of water mains, new supplies (meters and batteries), equipment, maintenance of equipment, and staff to maintain the system and read the meters. If a water customer is gone for the winter or an apartment is vacant, the cost of maintaining the system does not go away.

**FUNDING** All of Golden Valley's utility funds (water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and recycling) are handled as enterprise funds. This means the amount you pay for those utilities covers the entire cost of providing the service, maintenance and repair of each system, and any improvements to the system. Your property taxes do not fund anything related to those utilities.

**2008 RATES** In 2008, City water rates are going up 2.9 percent, from \$3.72 to \$3.83 per 1,000 gallons, to cover increased costs to provide services and maintain and repair the municipal water system. This reflects the increased amount the Golden Valley-Crystal-New Hope Joint Water Commission (JWC) will pay to buy water from the City of Minneapolis. It will also cover costs for maintenance, construction, and repair of water lines. In 2008, the JWC and the City of Minneapolis will establish water rates for the next five years.



Water rates are going up 2.9 percent in 2008

Golden Valley's residential utility bills are mailed quarterly and commercial accounts are mailed monthly. Both include charges for water, sewer, street lights, storm drainage, and recycling. If you have questions about the utility increases or the base rate, contact Finance Director Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010.

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# Run The Valley To Help Community Keep Its Pace

Annual Event Raises Funds For Community Programs



Get ready...



Get set...



Go!

Get on your mark, get set, and run for Golden Valley and the community.

Plan now to join friends and neighbors April 5 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 15th year, raises funds for organizations that benefit the community (see sidebar). In 2007, the event drew more than 420 participants and raised \$11,080.

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.

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 5, 8:30 am for 5K run and walk and 8:40 am for the 10K run

**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:**

Online at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) through April 1. Before April 3, in person or by mail with check, cash, or Visa/MasterCard to 200 Brookview Parkway, 55426; by phone (763-512-2345); or

by fax (763-512-2344). In person, April 3 from 8 am—7 pm and April 4 from 8:15 am—4 pm at Brookview Community Center, 200 Brookview Parkway. On race day, from 7:15—8 am at Davis Community Center.

**COST:** Entry fee is \$20 before March 1, \$25 March 1—April 4, and \$35 on race day.

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.



More than 420 people took part in last year's event.

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS FROM GVHSF



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 fundraisers, such as April's *Run the Valley*, September's *Golden Valley Golf Classic* and November's *Taste of Golden Valley*. The Foundation also receives 10% of the pull tab money collected in the City.

Since the GVHSF's inception, \$944,000 has been allocated to agencies. With the 2008 allocations, the total is \$974,500.

For 2008, the GVHSF allocated \$30,500 to five local human service organizations: Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery (\$10,000), PRISM Food Shelf (\$10,000), Suburban Northwest Dinner at Your Door (\$5,000), Crisis Connection (\$3,000), and Community Mediation (\$2,500). The City also financially supports Home Free and the NW YMCA Detached Worker Program.

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.

## ONLINE Recycling Sources

The following is a list of useful Internet sources about recycling:

**Hennepin County's Choose To Reuse**  
Lists businesses that promote recycling:

[www16.co.hennepin.mn.us/ceweb/Result.do](http://www16.co.hennepin.mn.us/ceweb/Result.do)

**The Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board**

Provides a wealth of specific recycling facts and resources:

[www.swmcb.org](http://www.swmcb.org)

**Recycling Association of Minnesota**

Offers a general overview of recycling information for Minnesota:

[www.recycleminnesota.org](http://www.recycleminnesota.org)

**Recycle City (an EPA resource)**

A great place for kids to get educated about recycling:

[www.epa.gov/recyclecity/](http://www.epa.gov/recyclecity/)

**Planet Protectors Club For Kids**

[www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/kids/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/kids/index.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
Memorial Day	Sat, May 31
Fourth of July	Sat, July 5
Labor Day	Sat, Sept 6
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 29
Christmas	Sat, Dec 27
New Year's '09	Sat, Jan 3

### 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.

# Recycle Old Electronics Before They Pile Up

The start of a new year is a great time to start thinking about recycling your old electronics.

With so many people purchasing new computers, TVs, and other electronics for holiday gifts (and TVs for the Super Bowl), old electronics start to pile up. And with upcoming HDTV standards, even more old TVs will get tossed.

The problem is, most electronics contain toxic metals such as lead, mercury, and cadmium. If any of these contaminants gets into rivers, streams or lakes, they can harm public health and damage the environment.

Experts estimate the average US household is storing two to three old televisions and computers, but there's no excuse for that. When you upgrade electronics, don't stockpile the old stuff, recycle it. It's never been easier or more important. Hennepin County takes electronics year-round, without charge (some quantity limitations apply), at drop-off facilities in Brooklyn Park and Bloomington.

The Hennepin County drop off sites are located at:

- South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-Off Center  
1400 West 96th Street, Bloomington
- Hennepin County Recycling Center and Transfer Station  
8100 Jefferson Highway, Brooklyn Park

The facilities are open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays: 10 am to 6 pm; Wednesdays: 10 am to 8 pm; and Saturdays: 8 am to 5 pm.

Electronics accepted include TVs, computers (CPUs, monitors, laptops), computer peripherals, VCRs, DVD players, stereos, and more. These items are accepted from households only. Electronics from businesses are not accepted at the facilities.

For more information on Hennepin County's Drop-off Facilities, how to recycle electronics, and quantity limitations, call 612-348-3777 or visit [www.hennepin.us](http://www.hennepin.us) and search: A to Z Guide. 



## Electronics Recycling Facts:

- 1 Worldwide PC sales are projected to total 255.7 million units in 2007, a 10.5 percent increase from 2006.
- 2 Americans bought 2.5 million TVs for the 2007 Super Bowl. That's up from 1.7 million bought for the 2006 Super Bowl.
- 3 The average lifespan of personal computers has fallen from 4.5 years in 1992 to an estimated 2 years in 2005.
- 4 In 2005, US households generated 2.6 million tons of electronics waste. Only 12.6 percent of this amount was recycled, according to the EPA.
- 5 Experts estimate that the average household is storing two to three old televisions and computers.
- 6 Electronics waste already constitutes 2 to 5 percent of US household garbage and is the fastest growing municipal waste stream in the US.
- 7 To manufacture one computer and monitor, it takes 530 pounds of fossil fuels, 48 pounds of chemicals, and 1.5 tons of water; totaling more than the weight of a rhinoceros.

Source: The Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board as a part of the Electronics Recycling Campaign

# I/I Is An Environmental And Financial Concern

With so much talk about the cost of reducing Inflow and Infiltration (I/I), it's sometimes easy to forget that I/I is an environmental hazard, a hazard that, if ignored, will only get worse with time.

## Financial Triple Threat

The MCES, which provides regional wastewater collection and treatment for the metropolitan area, pays \$300–\$400 million annually to treat **clean** run-off and ground water. Couple this with the wear and tear on the City's infrastructure and the immense cost of fees the City must pay if it doesn't fix the problem, and you have a triple-threat issue. The City of Golden Valley has a multi-pronged program to neutralize those threats (see page 12 for details).

Residents can help in many ways. By volunteering to have your sewer lines inspected for I/I compliance, you help identify I/I sources to be fixed. Last summer 55 percent of all homes in the City's 2008 Pavement Management Program area volunteered to have their sanitary sewer inspected for I/I, Lemke says. Residents can also help reduce I/I by making sure sump pumps are **not** cross-connected to sanitary sewer lines.

For more information, contact Golden Valley Public Works at 763-593-8030. Or visit the Metropolitan Council's I/I information site at [www.metrocouncil.org/environment/ProjectTeams/I-I-Home.htm](http://www.metrocouncil.org/environment/ProjectTeams/I-I-Home.htm).

## Environmental Hazards

I/I—the excess flow of clear water into the City's sanitary sewer system—has a dangerous cumulative effect. As sewer pipes become overwhelmed by excess flow, the infrastructure can break down, pipes may back up, and raw sewage may overflow into lakes, streams, and sometimes basements.

This can happen during heavy rainfalls. If the pipes below a city are already pumping more than they can or should handle due to I/I, a particularly drenching storm may be the straw that breaks the camel's back.

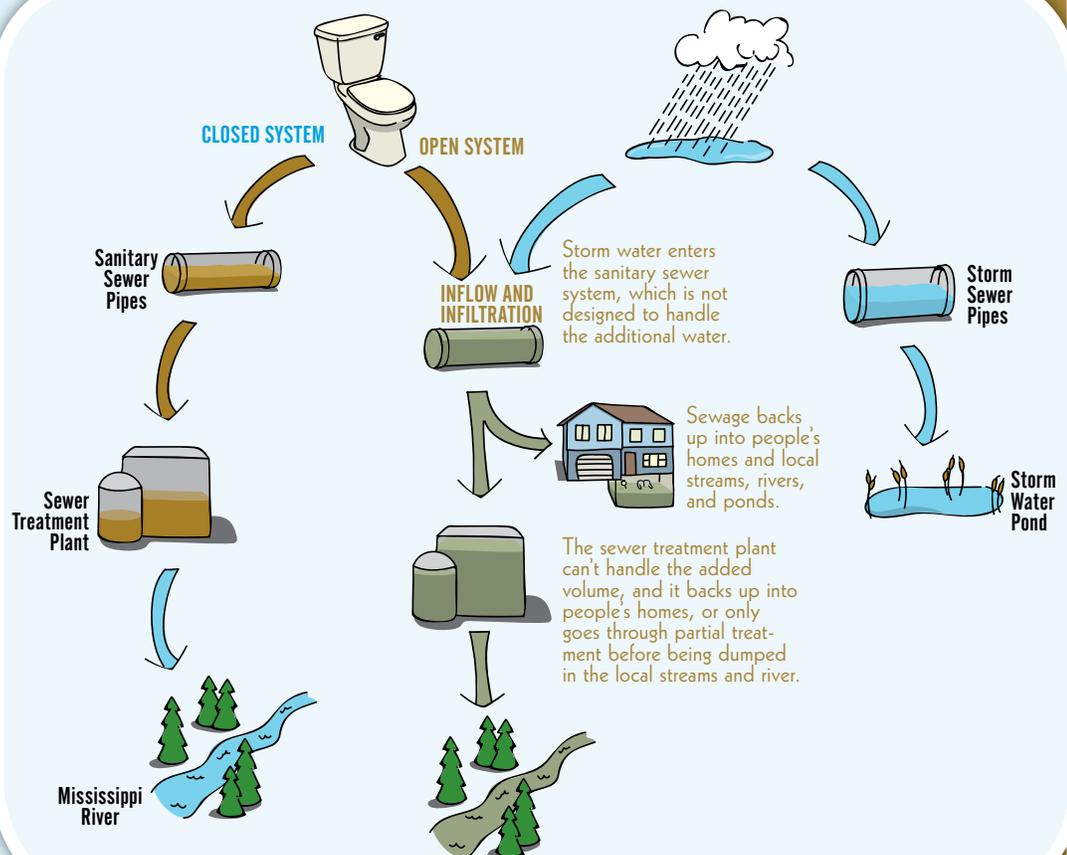
When that happens, two things are known to occur, says Utilities Supervisor Dave Lemke: Residential basements flood with raw sewage and manholes overflow. And sewage treatment plants temporarily bypass certain steps in treating raw sewage in order to speed up the process and meet the heightened demand. With spills and overflows, untreated sewage finds its way into the Mississippi river, where many cities, including Golden Valley, get their drinking water.

Treatment plants and sewer systems were built to handle a certain amount of growth, but as the systems age, and with development expected to increase in the metro area, excess I/I will no longer be sustainable, says Kyle Colvin, assistant manager of engineering planning with the Metropolitan Council's Environmental Services (MCES).

"The important thing to note is that even though we're not having routine spills and overflows, we have identified—as this area grows—that what reserve capacity we have in the pipes will be taken up," says Colvin. "So if we do nothing, the occurrence of these types of spills will increase, and that's what we're trying to circumvent."

Even when the system can handle excess clear water, treatment plants still waste energy treating it. That in itself is an environmental burden.

## The Impacts Of Inflow & Infiltration



## Recreation OPPORTUNITIES

Find details on the following recreation opportunities in the Winter Recreation Activities Brochure or the City Web site ([www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us)).

### YOUTH ACTIVITIES

**Kids' Club**—Ages 3–5. Mon/Wed, Feb 27–April 7 or Tue/Thu, Feb 26–April 3, 9:30–11 am, Brookview, \$36.

**Parent & Tot Chess II**—Ages 3–6 with an adult. Thu, Feb 28–April 3, 10–11 am, New Hope Ice Arena, \$25/resident, \$30/non-resident.

**Indoor Nerf Soccer**—Ages 5–7. Thu, Mar 27–May 1, 6–7 pm (depending on game schedule), Davis Community Center, \$25.

### DAVIS COMMUNITY CENTER

**Spring Break Open Gym**—Ages 5–12. Mon–Fri, Mar 17–21, 9 am–noon or 1–4 pm, \$25 per session.

**Family Gym Time**—Sat, 10–11:30 am or Sun, 1–3 pm. \$30/10-punch pass or \$5/day.

**Adult Open Basketball**—Wed, 8–10 pm or Sat, 8–10 am. \$20/10-punch pass or \$3/day.

**Over 40 Basketball**—Mon, 8–10 pm. \$20/10-punch pass or \$3/day.

**Co-Rec Open Volleyball**—Ages 18+. Tue or Thu, 8–10 pm. \$20/10-punch pass or \$3/day.

Watch for the Spring/Summer Recreation Activities Brochure to arrive in your mail in early March.

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

## Volunteering For GV Programs A Rewarding Experience

Go to the Brookview Community Center any Monday afternoon and you'll find Bev Faner and a group of friends playing a spirited game of Mexican Train dominos.

"Anybody who wants to come play, can come play," says Faner, who started the dominos activity two years ago with a friend. The activity is part of a volunteer program for seniors. About a dozen people come by every week to play the game, or to learn how to play.

"It keeps our minds sharp," Faner says. "We have a good time. We have a good group of people."

Such programs keep seniors active. They provide a social atmosphere that's fun and enriching. And they wouldn't be possible without volunteers.

"So many programs and activities for Golden Valley Park and Recreation happen because area residents take the time to volunteer," says Brian Erickson, recreation supervisor.

The Bike Rodeo, Penny Carnival, Supper with Santa, sporting events, Brookview activities, and youth sports teams all need volunteers.

People can choose to volunteer for a day, says Erickson, or they could coach youth sports and commit to a season.

Volunteers help offset costs of Golden Valley programs and ease staff workloads, Erickson says. Park and Recreation needs volunteers for drama classes, youth soccer and basketball, cable television assistance, Pet Pals, and more.

Without volunteers, the City might have to charge more for events and programs, or not offer them at all. "We wouldn't be doing the projects we do," says Jeanne Fackler, Golden Valley's senior citizens coordinator. For many volunteers, getting involved is as rewarding for them as it is for the people they're helping.

Faner, who's been volunteering at Brookview Community Center for about 15 years, says the people she works with have become very close.

"It becomes a family, it really does," she says.

Before the dominos game every Monday, Faner joins a group of volunteers for Mornings with Mary. The group assembles decorations to be hung on the doors of rooms in nursing homes, and they write and decorate cards that are delivered to people receiving Meals On Wheels. Sometimes their work can raise seniors' spirits in ways you'd never expect, she says, and just brighten their day.

If you're interested in volunteering at Brookview Community Center, call Park and Recreation at 763-512-2340. If you're interesting in volunteering for other Park and Recreation activities, visit [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us), click on "Parks, Recreation and Leisure," and follow the link to "Volunteer Opportunities." 



Mondays With Mary volunteers made turkey decorations for this past Thanksgiving.

# Community Offers Many Ways To Get Involved

Does your new year's resolution involve "getting involved?" Have you always wanted to meet folks in the community, but didn't know how to start?

No matter what your interests or the amount of time you can commit, there are many ways to get involved in Golden Valley.

**Neighborhood Watch**—Become a block captain, or if that's too big a commitment, talk a few of your neighbors into sharing leadership. Block captains recruit neighbors to participate in Neighborhood Watch, which includes attending Zone Meetings and another neighborhood social event each year in an effort to create safer neighborhoods. Many of these social events create neighborhood memories and lasting friendships. To learn more, go to [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/publicsafety/neighborhoodwatch](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/publicsafety/neighborhoodwatch) or contact Joanne Paul 763-593-8058.

**Bridge Builders**—A Bridge Builder is a special kind of volunteer that develops volunteer activities around his or her interest. Like to garden? Get involved in community gardening. Like to knit? Form a knitting group. Enjoy working with kids? Become a homework help mentor. Mary Anderson, head librarian at the Golden Valley Library, followed her interests and helped create the After-School Success Program (see box). Bridge Builders is a by-product of *Envision Golden Valley*, the City's community visioning process. To learn more or to access tools available to find others with similar interests, go to [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/EnvisionGVConnectionProject-BridgeBuilders.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/EnvisionGVConnectionProject-BridgeBuilders.htm) or call Jeanne Andre at 763-593-8014.

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**—Valley Days grew out of a few citizens' mutual interest in developing a sense of community centered on art and music events. The fourth annual Valley Days is set for May 16–17 at Brookview Park and the Civic Center grounds. Contribute your ideas and sweat to this community festival and make new friends at the same time. To find out how you could get involved, go to [www.goldenvalleyfund.org](http://www.goldenvalleyfund.org) or contact Don Keysser at 612-710-0995.

The City's Human Services Foundation, which holds fundraisers for community human service needs, is always looking for volunteers to help with its annual events, including Run The Valley (see page 3), the Golden Valley Golf Classic in September, and A Taste Of Golden Valley in November. For more information, contact Jeanne Fackler at 763-512-2340.

**CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**—Are you a policy wonk and interested in advising the City Council on local government issues? The Open Space and Recreation, Human Rights, and Environmental Commissions, the Building Board of Review, and the Envision Connection Project Board of Directors all have current openings. The Northwest Hennepin Human Services Council Advisory Commission, whose representatives from 14 communities plan for area human service needs, is also seeking members. The City Council is currently taking applications and will be interviewing to fill these positions in the next few months. For more information, go to [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/boards](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/boards) or call Judy Nally at 763-593-8006.

## After-School Success Program

Matt Lasure, community programs director at the Northwest YMCA, will coordinate "After School Success," a mentoring and homework help program for middle schoolers at the Golden Valley Library. Ten community volunteers will begin training as mentors in February, and each volunteer will be assigned one student to work with weekly through the school year. CommonBond Social Worker at Karen Libra helped register kids and match them with mentors. Librarian Mary Anderson envisioned the program as a community Bridge Builder (see main story), and it blossomed with support from the Golden Valley Library, Northwest YMCA, and CommonBond Communities.



## SENIOR Stuff

Unless noted otherwise, activities are at Brookview Community Center and require advance registration.

### ACTIVITIES

**Coffee Talk**—Feb 27: "Helping Paws," Mar 26: "Elderhostel." 9:45 am. \$2 at door. Call 763-512-2339 to register.

### PRESENTATIONS/SERVICES

**Help With Medicare**—Mar 11, April 8. 9–11 am. Answers to your Medicare Insurance questions. Call for appointment.

**Tax Assistance 2008**—Feb 21, Mar 6, 20, April 3. 9–11:30 am. Free first-come, first-served help from trained volunteers for seniors with uncomplicated income taxes.

**Defensive Driving 4-Hour Course**—Mar 13 and April 10, 9 am–1 pm, \$16. Register by sending a check to Minnesota Safety Council, 474 Concordia Ave, St Paul, 55103.

**Living Wise and Well**—"From Nursing Home To Health Care Center," Mar 6, 1 pm, Calvary Cooperative.

**Money Matters**—Feb 21: "Understanding Contracts and Agreements," Mar 20: "Getting Your Legal Papers in Order." 10–11 am.

### UPCOMING TRIPS (REGISTER EARLY)

**Mar 14: Irish in America**, 10:30 am–2 pm, \$44/person. Lunch at Kieran's Irish Pub, lecture by James Rogers. Register by Feb 25.

**April 8: Stillwater Chocolates**, 10 am–5 pm, \$60/person. Lunch at Water Street Inn, presentations at Outing Lodge and the Phipps Inn. Register by March 24.

### UPCOMING EXTENDED TRIPS:

- Sept 25–26, Grand Marais
- Oct 16–20, Washington DC
- Dec 2–6, Branson Holiday Tour

For more information, contact:  
Golden Valley Seniors Program  
Brookview Community Center  
200 Brookview Parkway  
Golden Valley, MN 55426  
763-512-2339  
8 am–5 pm, Monday–Friday

# Property Maintenance Inspections Keep Aging Homes Looking Young

## City Gets Proactive, Encourages Residents To Do The Same



Nearly 80 percent of Golden Valley homes were built before 1970, making property maintenance standards a priority for the City and its citizens, not just for the overall appearance of neighborhoods, but also for the well-being of the community.

That's why last year the Golden Valley City Council passed a minimum-standards maintenance code that applies to all residential properties. This year the law was extended to include one- and two-family rental properties (see story on page 15).

The Residential Property Maintenance Code (RPMC) 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. The response has been positive, says Josh Kunde, a City property maintenance inspector. Most people are tired of living with an eyesore in their neighborhood and are happy the City has

become more active in getting neglectful homeowners to shape up.

In the past, the City approached property maintenance issues on a complaint basis, receiving an average of 40 complaints per month. With the new code in place, all homes will be inspected. Kunde says he hopes this will encourage people to find and fix maintenance concerns well before an inspector shows up. Since January 2006, the City has inspected a quarter of Golden Valley homes and issued more than 300 violation notices.

### Don't Let Your Home Become A Complaint

Be proactive, Kunde says. Three or four times a year, walk around your home and take note of anything that looks rundown or damaged. Use common sense.

"If it doesn't look right, it probably isn't right," he adds.

For further guidance, use the checklist on page 9. It outlines most of the items Kunde examines when he inspects a property.

If you're not sure whether your house is up to code, give Kunde a call at 763-593-

8074, and he'll give your property a free inspection for expert advice on what, if anything, needs to be repaired. You have nothing to lose—citations are not issued during voluntary inspections.

On the other hand, if you procrastinate on keeping your home well maintained, not only are you diminishing the housing values of the entire neighborhood, you're also facing a hefty fine. When Kunde writes up a violation, he gives a specified period to fix the problem. The fee for not complying starts at \$100 and moves up to \$500 after the third noncompliance. A homeowner cited a fourth time will be charged with a misdemeanor and will have to show up in court.

Litter and garbage, including bags of leaves left to pile up, were the source of most violations so far. Generally, people don't argue about a write-up, Kunde says. They're usually aware something needs to be done but just haven't been motivated yet.

Questions? Contact Property Maintenance Inspector Josh Kunde at 763-593-8074.

The following is a checklist of basic maintenance problems every homeowner can identify and fix. All of the items below are those a property inspector would check for while evaluating your home. Some maintenance projects may require permits or professional help, but most smaller repairs may be done by the homeowner. Contact Josh Kunde at 763-593-8074, if you have any questions. Remember, if it looks like it needs repair, it probably does.

## My Property Checklist

### General Appearance

- Paint fading, chalking, or peeling
- Neglected landscaping, lawn not mowed, or overgrown weeds
- Accumulation of trash, construction debris, or yard waste
- Junk vehicles sitting out rather than stored
- Driveway in poor condition, ruts, holes
- Roofing curling, missing, or overdue for replacement (the average life of a shingled roof is 20-30 years)

### House Numbers

- Less than three inches high
- Numbers blend into background
- Not clearly visible from street

### Firewood

- Scattered, on the ground
- Visible eyesore
- More than what's needed

### Windows and Doors

- Windows not operational, no screens
- Garage doors not securable
- Entry doors rotten or dilapidated
- Doors or windows not securable against intrusions

### Lawn Maintenance and Landscaping

- Grass/weeds longer than 8 inches
- Flower beds and gardens overrun with weeds or brush
- Lawn clippings, leaves, and yard equipment sitting out
- Trees overgrown onto house or buildings, causing damage
- Shrubs and bushes overgrown and on buildings

### Accessory and Yard Buildings

- Doors not operational or securable
- Foundation unstable (settling or rotten)
- Windows and doors with broken glass or missing glazing

### Chimneys

- Bricks or chimney caps out of place, not secured
- Chimney settling, leaning, or falling
- Trees blocking discharge flues

### Soffit and Fascia (bottom side of overhang & trim around roof edge)

- Soffits falling or rotten
- Vents out of place, full of debris
- Fascia boards and trim unattached or rotting

### Fences and Retaining Walls

- Chain link fencing not secured to posts
- Gates not operational
- Fence posts rotting at ground level
- Fence boards not attached
- Retaining walls falling or leaning
- Wood missing or rotting

### Gutters and Downspouts

- Gutters not properly attached, falling
- Downspouts not attached to gutters, draining toward house
- Gutters and downspouts cluttered with debris
- Any necessary end caps or fittings out of place
- Downspouts flood walkways or steps

### Steps and Sidewalks

- Have heaved, cracked, or moved unreasonably
- Surface not reasonably smooth and uniform

### Trailers and Recreational Vehicles

- Vehicles not parked on driveway
- Vehicles not displaying current license
- Vehicles parked on side of rear yards not screened from view
- More than one trailer/recreational vehicle parked in driveway

### Porches and Decks

- Foundations settling or rotting
- Beams and posts sized incorrectly and rotting
- Handrails out of place, not secured
- Stairs not structurally sound or properly constructed
- Decking material not structurally sound or fastened in place

## If You See A Violation, Report It

Even though the City no longer approaches housing inspections on a complaint basis, Property Inspector Josh Kunde still encourages people to call in if they see a possible violation. Homes that spark complaints will be inspected sooner than homes on the general rotation.

Some people have been reluctant to report housing problems for fear they'll get in trouble with their neighbor, Kunde says. However, complaints are confidential and names are never released. But Kunde reminds residents that if they do call in, they must leave an address and a call-back number. For the quickest response, fill out and send in the form provided on this page and return to Josh Kunde, Fire/Property Maintenance, Golden Valley City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Rd, Golden Valley, MN 55427.

### Property Maintenance Complaint Form

INFORMATION ABOUT YOU	
NAME	PHONE
ADDRESS	
INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR COMPLAINT	
DESCRIPTION	
ADDRESS OF COMPLAINT	
NAME OF OWNER	PHONE
ADDRESS OF OWNER (if different)	
NAME OF TENANT	PHONE

✂ Cut this out and use it to evaluate your home and yard.

## Join Neighborhood Watch

When neighbors work together with the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD), it creates the best crime fighting team around. Neighborhood Watch educates citizens about local crime trends and criminals and encourages better communication among neighbors.

The GVPD hosts annual Neighborhood Watch meetings by zone (see schedule below). To locate your zone or learn more about Neighborhood Watch, go to [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/publicsafety/neighborhoodwatch.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/publicsafety/neighborhoodwatch.htm). Upcoming zone meetings will debut a video featuring burglary avoidance tips from a career residential burglar who was arrested in Golden Valley.

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).



### Zone(s) Meeting Date

6	March 11, 2008, 7 pm Noble Elementary School
5a	April 21, 2008, 7 pm Noble Elementary School
5b & 7	May 12, 2008, 7 pm Noble Elementary School
8b	Annual Association Meeting (TBD)
8c	(TBD)
1	October 2008 Sunny Hollow Elementary School
2 & 4	October 2008 Golden Valley Country Club
3	November 2008 Sandburg Middle School
9 & 10	January 2009 Brookview Community Center
8a	February 2009 Meadowbrook Elementary School

# Simple Home Precautions Can Keep You Safer

No matter how old we are or how much we know about life, we can always learn more. That's the approach favored by the Crime and Fire Prevention Units of the Golden Valley Police and Fire Departments. Their ongoing education and networking programs (see sidebar at left and story on page 11) are some of the City's most effective tools for community safety.

"Keeping people safe in their own homes can be a challenge because everyone lives in a bubble," says Crime Prevention Specialist Joanne Paul. "If it hasn't happened to them or someone they know, it might not be on their radar, or they think, 'Oh, that will never happen to me.'"

While there are endless ways for people to safeguard themselves and their homes, some have more of an immediate impact, says Fire Education Specialist Stephen Baker. A few of the most important are outlined below.

- By far the biggest cause of fires in any home is cooking. The best way to prevent cooking fires is to attend the stove at all times. NEVER leave an open flame or boiling pot unattended. Keep clothes and other combustible objects clear of the burner.
- Installing a properly working fire alarm is one of the easiest ways to prevent a future tragedy. Also, make sure you have and know how to operate a fire extinguisher. And devise an escape plan in case of fire.
- Carbon monoxide poisoning is a leading cause of death inside homes. Make sure you have a carbon monoxide detector on all levels, especially near sleeping areas.
- The quickest way to prevent identity theft is to buy a shredder. Shred any document that contains privacy information.
- Nighttime visits to the bathroom are the leading cause of falls in a home. Take your time, turn on the lights, and install handrails and traction pads. A broken hip can significantly reduce a senior's life expectancy.

For more detailed safety tips, attend the City's Masters Safety Camp in April (see page 11).



## By The NUMBERS

- 51%** of all structure fires are caused by cooking, and 50 percent of all cooking fires were unattended
- 72%** of all structure fires were residential, leading to dozens of deaths and hundreds of injuries per year
- 40%** of people hospitalized for hip fractures do not return home and are not capable of living independently again

Source: Department of Safety, 2006

# Safeguard Your Golden Years At *Masters* Camp

You don't have to be a kid to learn a thing or two about safety

Join the Golden Valley Police and Fire Departments April 9 for the masters version of the City's ever-popular safety camp. You won't play Capture The Flag or get your picture taken in front of a fire truck, but you will learn valuable information about the safety issues that most often affect adults. These include the best ways to avoid identity theft and fraud as well as tips on medical safety, heart and stroke identification, fire prevention, and fall prevention.

You'll also get a free safety kit, complete with a smoke alarm, carbon monoxide detector, and fire extinguisher, if you need one.

Organized by Fire Education Specialist Stephen Baker and Crime Prevention Specialist Joanne Paul, Masters Safety Camp will feature several guest speakers who are experts in specific safety areas. Its goal is to get people at or near retirement age to make safety concerns a priority to prevent accidents, rather than fall victim to them.

"Accidents tend to increase at retirement age," says Baker. "What is small at age 25 can be life threatening at 65."

"We not only want to remind people about safety measures, but also give them some new ideas about general safety," says Paul. "We want to reduce fear and raise awareness. The more people are educated about something, the less fearful they are about it, the better they can handle it."

While most adults have good knowledge of proper safety practices around the home, they'll still gain a lot of helpful tips at Masters Safety Camp, says Baker. (See page 10 for some common safety precautions.)

"You will learn at least one thing that will make your life better," he adds. "Bring a friend, enjoy the refreshments, and have some fun with it."

And who knows? You might get that fire truck picture after all.

Questions? Contact Baker at 763-593-3977. 



## Masters Safety Camp

a one-day education session for grown-ups who want to be safety savvy

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

8:30 am — 2 pm

Brookview Community Center  
200 Brookview Parkway

Register today!

Space is limited to 60 people.

\$10

includes a morning snack, lunch, and a Home & Personal Safety Kit

## Safety Camps Have New Sign-Up Policy

Golden Valley's Youth Safety Camps are popular and effective, nearly always filling up within days after registration opens. To provide a more equitable registration process, the City has instituted the following new sign-up policy for 2008:

- **1st Week of Registration:**  
Open to Golden Valley residents who are new camp participants. On-line registration not available.
- **2nd Week of Registration:**  
Open to all Golden Valley residents. On-line registration not available.
- **3rd Week of Registration:**  
Open to all

Both Junior Safety Camp (ages 4–6) and Safety Camp (ages 7–10) are designed to provide safety education in a day-camp setting while highlighting fun, friends, and feeling good. Camp counselors (Police and Fire Department personnel) oversee interactive programs on fire, bike, and personal safety; safety in the home; first aid; and much more. Registration is limited to 80 for Junior Safety Camp and 100 for Safety Camp. For more information, contact Park & Recreation at 763-512-2345. 

### Masters Safety Camp Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check for \$10 enclosed

Send to:

Golden Valley Police Department  
Attn: Masters Safety Camp  
7800 Golden Valley Rd  
Golden Valley, MN 55427

## Private Sewer System Inspections

Golden Valley's private sewer system inspection program is meant to ensure there are no defects or illegal connections to the sanitary sewer system that contribute to excess Inflow and Infiltration (I/I).

### PMP Inspection

Properties in one of the City's annual Pavement Management Programs (PMP) can be inspected for free before street construction begins.

### Point of Sale Inspection

The City's Point of Sale ordinance is aimed at preventing property owners from passing problem sewer systems on to unsuspecting buyers. It requires property owners to have their sanitary sewer inspected before advertising their house for sale or transferring title to property. Improper connections or significant sources of I/I must be corrected before the City will issue a Certificate of I/I Compliance. Once a property has a Certificate of I/I Compliance, subsequent sales or title transfers will require an inspection of the sump pump discharge only. The \$200 inspection fee covers the cost of two televised inspections—a first inspection and a post-repair inspection, if required—and staff time to review the DVD and issue paperwork. Failure to obtain a Certificate of I/I Compliance is a misdemeanor.

For the 40 percent of sanitary sewers that failed inspection, repair costs to date have ranged from \$500 to \$8,595, depending on the extent of the repair. The average repair cost has been \$3,600.

Since January 2007, approximately 9 percent of homes have been inspected, says Bert Tracy, Public Works maintenance manager.

For more information about private sewer system inspections, contact Public Works at 763-593-8030. 



# Reducing Inflow &

## Golden Valley's Proactive Approach

Between 2004 and 2006, the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) identified 49 Twin Cities communities with excessive clear water flows into the regional wastewater system. Known as Inflow and Infiltration (I/I), this excessive flow is an environmental and financial burden to the entire region (see stories on pages 5 and 13). Golden Valley is one of the culprits.

To force cities to take action, the MCES adopted a program in 2006 to impose a surcharge for communities with excessive I/I (see page 13 for details). Cities could choose to undertake a program to reduce the Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) in lieu of the surcharge.

Before the MCES surcharge program began, Golden Valley had already initiated a free voluntary sump pump inspection program. Between 2000–2004, the City inspected 1,681 sump pumps as part of its water meter change-out program. Inspectors found 136 illegally connected sump pumps and 52 with unknown connections, meaning 11 percent of sump pumps were non-compliant. Given Golden Valley's excess I/I amount, it was determined that illegally connected sump pumps were a minor source. The next step was to look underground.

The City owns approximately 113 miles of sanitary sewer pipe, which is regularly inspected and cleaned. City sewer mains are repaired or replaced, as necessary, during street construction projects. The City also schedules replacement of all sanitary sewer manhole castings and seals manholes to eliminate flow of clear water into the sanitary sewer.

Private property owns 147 miles of sanitary sewer pipe, and the City has no way of knowing if it is properly maintained. To truly address I/I, the City concluded it was necessary to inspect private sewer systems (see sidebar for details).

### Common Sanitary Sewer Defects

Generally roofs, decks, or other portions of property get repaired or replaced as they age, but since sewers are out of sight, they often go unattended by homeowners until they break. Homeowners are responsible for maintaining and repairing the sewer pipes from their home or building to the City's main line in the street.

Defects in sanitary sewers directly result in infiltration and exfiltration (untreated sewage flow or leakage out of the pipe, which is a violation of the Federal Clean Water Act). Common defects include:

- root intrusion—tree roots are one of the primary causes of degradation of a sanitary system, and they accelerate the rate of deterioration. Even if you have your sewer regularly cleared of roots, the system is still compromised and open to infiltration and exfiltration.
- cracks, breaks, or missing pipe—often due to age and type of the pipe, soils, and root intrusion
- illegal connections from sump pumps, drain tile, and roof leaders (downspouts)—early in Golden Valley's development, it was common practice to connect drain tile, sump pump discharge, and roof leaders to the sanitary sewer system. Although those practices were outlawed some 30 years ago, many homes are still hooked up.

The City has more than 8,000 private sewer service connections. During periods of heavy rain and spring thaw, the ground water table rises and causes infiltration through defects in the sanitary sewer system. Even a small amount from each of these private connections will have a cumulative impact on the entire sanitary sewer system.

For more information about, contact Public Works at 763-593-8030. 



# Infiltration (I/I)

## Costs & Benefits

Golden Valley's Inflow and Infiltration inspection ordinance has been the subject of much debate since the City Council adopted it a year ago. In light of the ordinance's one-year anniversary, the following is a review of the most frequent questions asked about I/I.

### Q. Why is Golden Valley one of the first cities in the metro area to tackle I/I through a private property sanitary sewer inspections program?

Golden Valley has a high level of ground water infiltration due to its unusual soil makeup. The combination of clayish soil and swampy areas promotes clear water seepage into sanitary sewer pipes, raising environmental concerns and putting a drain on water treatment funds. The Metropolitan Council designated Golden Valley as one of 49 metro area communities with excessive I/I. The City got proactive, following the lead of other progressive communities throughout the country that used private sanitary sewer inspections to reduce I/I. In Minnesota, Duluth, Waseca, and Glencoe were also leaders. Currently Chaska, West St Paul, and Maple Plain have similar programs. As communities are required to comply with the MCES surcharge program and the EPA's Clean Water Act, these types of programs will become more common.

### Q. Currently the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) charges the City (and its citizens) a \$380,000 surcharge per year for excess waste water treatment. Why not just pay it, rather than require sewer inspections and repairs?

This problem won't go away if it's simply "bought off." As is, treating clean run-off and ground water costs the Met Council about \$300-\$400 million annually. It's also a drain on resources, hinders development, and is an environmental concern (see page 5). The longer the City waits to reduce I/I, the bigger and more expensive the problem will become. For example, the Metro Council's \$380,000 surcharge is based on one rain event (in October 2005) where Golden Valley exceeded its peak allowable flow into the MCES sanitary sewer system. Since then, the City hasn't exceeded the threshold set by that rain event, so the surcharge hasn't increased. If Golden Valley doesn't reduce its I/I, this charge will become a permanent cumulative demand charge in 2013. At that time all demand charges will be based on accumulative rain events, meaning Golden Valley's demand charge will never be less than \$380,000 but could be significantly higher.

### Q. Why doesn't the City just fix these problems by itself and keep homeowners out of it?

For the same reason the City doesn't fix other items on private property, such as aging roofs, furnaces, or decks. Generally, those property items get repaired or replaced as they age because they're visible, but since sewers are out of sight, they often go unattended until they break. Property owners are responsible for maintaining and repairing the sewer pipes from their home or building to the City's main line in the street. The City is responsible for maintaining and repairing public sewer pipes.

### Q. Why is the City sticking its nose into private properties now?

To be successful at reducing I/I, the City has to inspect and reduce all sources of I/I. Defects in public and private sanitary sewer pipes can contribute as much as several gallons of clear water per minute *per defect* at times when ground water levels are high and infiltration is also high. I/I has a dangerous cumulative effect.

### Q. If I/I is such a big deal, why isn't the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concerned about it?

The EPA is concerned about it. It has had a task force working on I/I since 1995, and it is strengthening enforcement of regulations. In 2006, EPA enforcement officers visited the metro area to review progress on reducing I/I and sewer overflows.

If you have more questions about I/I, contact Utilities Maintenance Supervisor Dave Lemke at 763-593-8075. For I/I information, go to [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us).

## MCES Offers I/I Grants

Effective Jan 1, 2008, the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) began offering a limited number of grants to residents who separate their foundation drains from the sanitary sewer system to help reduce inflow and infiltration (I/I) into the metropolitan sewer system. Residents are eligible for the lesser of \$1,000 or 50 percent of the actual cost of the separation. Grant money is available first-come, first-served. When the money is gone, the program will be discontinued.

MCES instituted the program in an attempt to help reduce financial pressure on private property owners required to comply with their City's I/I reduction programs.

"Drain tile disconnections are often particularly problematic," writes MCES Finance Director Jason Willett in a letter to I/I Surcharge Cities. "Enclosed is an offer to provide a small measure of help to property owners who are disconnecting drain tiles."

### Grant Eligibility

To be eligible for a grant, property owners must complete an application form and include a copy of the paid invoice from the plumbing contractor that disconnected the foundation drain and the date and number of the plumbing permit issued by the City of Golden Valley Inspections Department. Forms are available from the Golden Valley Public Works Department (763-593-8030) and can be downloaded at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/streets/cityutilitiesys-inflowinspection/MCESgrant.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/streets/cityutilitiesys-inflowinspection/MCESgrant.htm).

The City of Golden Valley will submit grant applications to MCES monthly. Funds awarded will be sent to the City of Golden Valley and then issued to the property owner.

Questions? Contact Utilities Maintenance Supervisor Dave Lemke at 763-593-8075.

# Crosswalk Countdowns: Easier For Pedestrians

Many of us have experienced uncertainty interpreting the meaning of the "Walk," "Don't Walk," and flashing "Don't Walk" lights at signalized crosswalks. To improve safety and reduce uncertainty for pedestrians, the City of Golden Valley recently installed new countdown timers at several intersections. These new signals show a countdown of the time remaining before cross traffic will begin to flow, allowing pedestrians to more safely judge whether to begin crossing the street or wait for the next cycle.

## Crosswalk Safety...

Traditional pedestrian signals are the simple "Walk/Don't Walk" indications. While "Walk" and "Don't Walk" are easily understood, many pedestrians are uncertain about what to do when the "Don't Walk" light is flashing. Some hurry across the street while others stop and return to the corner they had departed.

The flashing "Don't Walk" indication means pedestrians in the crosswalk, even if they have just stepped off of the curb, can continue to walk and will safely make it across the street before the signal changes.

To illustrate, pedestrian studies conducted around the country have found the average pedestrian walks at a rate of four feet per second. In Golden Valley, a typical pedestrian crossing distance at a signalized intersection is 74 feet. The "Walk" light is on for about seven seconds to get pedestrians started. The "Don't Walk" light will then flash for about 19 seconds (74 feet divided by four feet per second), followed by a solid "Don't Walk" light.

## ...IMPROVED

The new countdown timers will show pedestrians how long the flashing "Don't Walk" light will be on, which clearly communicates the amount of time left before the signal changes for vehicles. Some people have raised concerns that the countdown timers serve as countdowns for people planning to drag race once the light has changed. In reality, after the countdown ends, drivers on the crossing street have to wait through a yellow and short period of all red before they can go.

To experience the new countdown timers, head for the pedestrian crosswalks at the following intersections:

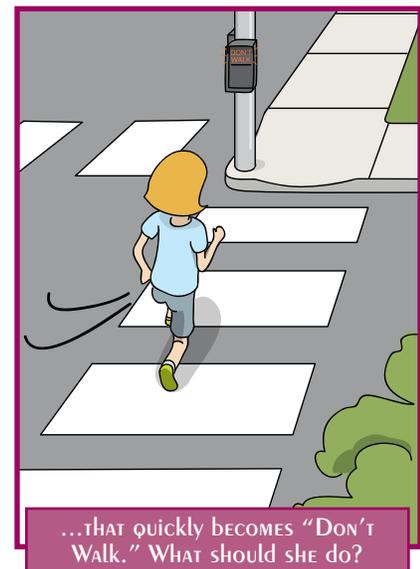
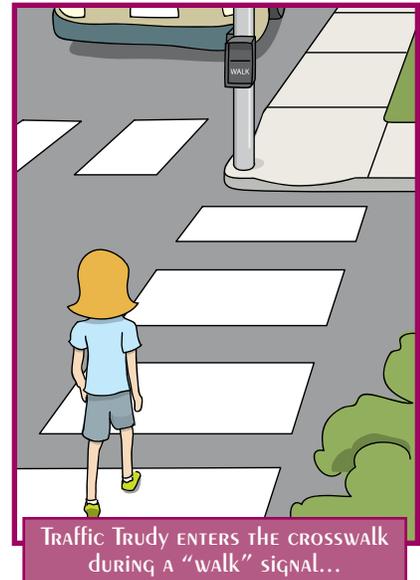
- Winnetka Ave at Golden Valley Rd
- Golden Valley Rd at Rhode Island Ave
- Rhode Island Ave at Hwy 55

Countdown timers will be the new standard as upgrades are made at other intersections throughout Golden Valley. For more information, contact Public Works at 763-593-8030. 



## Five Easy Street-Crossing Steps

- 1 When you approach a signalized intersection, look for the pedestrian push button and the pedestrian instruction sign next to it. Push the button to let the signal control computer know you want to cross.
- 2 Wait on the sidewalk while the solid red hand is on. Do not enter the crosswalk.
- 3 When the pedestrian light changes to an image of a walking person, start crossing the street. Even though you have the right of way as a pedestrian in the crosswalk, look both ways and, if possible, make eye contact with drivers to be sure they are stopping before you walk through their path of travel.
- 4 If the solid red hand light starts to flash while you are crossing, keep crossing the street. The number next to the flashing hand is the number of seconds you have left before the light changes.
- 5 When the countdown timer reaches 0, the light will change. Make sure you are not still in the crosswalk when the counter reaches 0. 





## City Requires Licensing For Rental Housing

As the City of Golden Valley completed its first round of outdoor property maintenance inspections this summer (see article on pages 8–9), inspectors noticed a significant trend. A disproportionate amount of housing maintenance violations occur in homes being rented out.

Coincidentally, the City Council had previously considered an ordinance requiring homeowners to get a rental license before renting. In November 2007, the Council passed an amendment requiring rented homes to undergo periodic exterior inspections (which are done for every home) as well as interior inspections. It is the first ordinance of its kind in Golden Valley for all rented property, says Golden Valley Property Inspector Josh Kunde. "Until now, the City kept no record of which single-family homes were rented out and which were not."

The ordinance applies both to homeowners who are already renting out a house as well as homeowners planning to. "Inspection frequency has yet to be established," says Mark Kuhnly, the City's chief of fire and inspections, "but we're considering a full inspection (inside and outside) once every three years."

"Homeowners take better care of houses they actually live in," says Kuhnly. "We'd like to see all property owners maintain and keep reinvesting in their properties, whether they live in them or not." Rental licenses are also required for multi-dwelling buildings and apartments.

The rental license amendment is an extension of City Ordinance 4.60 and may be viewed anytime at Golden Valley City Hall. If you have questions about the ordinance, contact Kunde at 763-593-8074. 

## Re-Roofing Requires Permit, Expediency

Roof repair went to the top of many homeowners' to-do lists after the big storm Sept 20. If your roof was damaged, remember, the insurance company is the first place to call, not the City. While the City issues permits and performs final inspections, it does not make damage assessments.

The roof is probably the most important weatherproofing element of your home. If your roof is 20 years old or older, has cracks, curled or cupped shingles, damages, worn mineral coatings, exposed nails, previous patches, holes, exposed underlayment or sheathing, or if it leaks (and not simply from the flashing), chances are you need a new one.

Generally speaking, roof replacement requires completely removing existing shingles, underlayment (when possible), and flashing, and installing new materials.

For more information on roof replacement, contact Golden Valley Inspections at 763-593-8090 or pick up the Residential Roofing Information Sheet available at City Hall (7800 Golden Valley Rd) or online at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/yourhome/improve.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/yourhome/improve.htm). 

## GOT A BUILDING PROJECT? YOU'LL NEED A PERMIT



If you have a building project planned this spring, you'll need to get your permit now. Don't wait until the last minute, or you might need to delay the project by a month or more. Permit processing may take several weeks.

Most home improvements require permits to ensure projects are up to code and 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.

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

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

# CHECK OUT THESE SEMINARS AT THE REMODELING FAIR

Kitchen and Bath Remodeling: Small Innovations to Total Renovations

Your Dream Kitchen On A Budget

Quick And Easy Bathroom Makeovers

Remodeling Planning 101

Retrofitting Windows

Refinishing Wood Floors

Plumbing Repair Basics

ABCs Of Interior Design

Build And dECORate Green

Why Sustainability Makes Sense And Cents For Your Home

Porches And Porticos

Spring Into Landscaping

New Trends In Landscape Design

Rain Gardens And Barrels

# Remodeling Fair Is Feb 24

Whether you're a first-time do-it-yourselfer or seasoned pro, the 17th annual Home Remodeling Fair has something for anyone looking to spruce up their home.

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



## IF YOU GO...

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

**WHEN:** Sunday, Feb. 24, 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 Eisenhower, 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

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 Alderman Construction Inc, Beautiful Kitchens and Baths, Boyer Building Corp, Building Arts Sustainable Architecture & Construction LLC, Cedar Construction Company, CEE Financial Resources, Heritage Builders, Home Works Remodeling & Repair, Inc, J.W. Williams Construction, Inc, McFarland Design & Build, Mon-Ray, Inc, and Neighborhood Building & Remodeling Co.

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

[www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us)

# City of Golden Valley

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

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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.



[www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us)

# City of Golden Valley

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Golden Valley, MN 55427

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Mpls, MN

## 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.