

# Golden Valley

## CityNEWS

### Council Meetings To Stream Live On Web



Like to keep up with the decisions and plans of Golden Valley's City Council? Can't always make it out to City Hall for meetings? Tired of being restrained by the limits of prescheduled meeting reruns on cable TV? Don't fret. Golden Valley will soon be providing 24/7, on-demand access to it's City Council meeting replays.

Before the end of the year, residents will be able to watch City Council meetings live on the Internet. They will also be able to watch replays of all or part of those meetings at their convenience through a link on the City Web site ([www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us)). Meetings will be archived and available for viewing for one year.

The move to Web streaming helps Golden Valley meet today's standards of technological communications and helps promote outreach, accessibility, and a more open and transparent government.

The project is funded and coordinated by the Northwest Suburbs Cable Communications Commission (NWSCCC) for its nine member cities: Golden Valley, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Maple Grove, New Hope, Osseo, Plymouth, and Robbinsdale. NWSCCC negotiates, adopts, and enforces cable franchise agreements with cable television providers in the northwest suburbs and provides and funds Northwest Community TV and Channel 12. As a new service, NWSCCC will provide the host site for the on-demand streaming video.

The new online service is powered by San Francisco-based Granicus Inc, a leading provider of government webcasting and public meeting management solutions to nearly 400 government agencies in 39 states. In Minnesota, Granicus serves Ramsey County and the Cities of Eagan, St Paul, Burnsville, and many others.

Questions? Contact Communications Coordinator Cheryl Weiler at 763-593-8004.



### douglas dr corridor study

### City Studies Options

In July 2008, the City of Golden Valley officially began a study of the Douglas Dr corridor to enhance pedestrian and bicycle access. The study, funded by a federal grant, will focus on a redesign of Douglas Dr and on establishing a long-term vision for the corridor.

The City already reached out to neighboring resident and business stakeholders to seek ideas about the corridor from frequent users. Additional public input is planned, including a workshop for more grass roots input and an open house to share preliminary thoughts on addressing corridor needs. To learn more about these meetings, go to [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/zoning/DouglasDrive/index.html](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/zoning/DouglasDrive/index.html). It is anticipated that study recommendations regarding the corridor will be presented to the City Council and various City commissions early next year.

Questions? Contact City Planner Joe Hogeboom at 763-593-8099 or [jhogeboom@ci.golden-valley.mn.us](mailto:jhogeboom@ci.golden-valley.mn.us).



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## City Tax Levy

	Actual 2008	Proposed 2009
General Fund Levy	\$ 11,345,415	\$ 11,787,885
Tax Abatement Levy <sup>1</sup>	\$ 367,215	\$ 367,215
Bonded Debt Levy:		
Street Improvement Bonds <sup>2</sup>	\$ 2,715,750	\$ 3,115,750
Equipment Certificates <sup>3</sup>	\$ 770,000	\$ 770,000
Sub-Total	\$ 3,485,750	\$ 3,885,750
<b>Total Levy</b>	<b>\$ 15,198,380</b>	<b>\$ 16,124,650</b>

<sup>1</sup> In 2001, the City approved the sale of tax abatement bonds to pay for intersection improvements at Hwy 55 and Boone Ave. This debt is paid from the increased value of the new General Mills building.

<sup>2</sup> The Bonded Debt Levy will increase to pay existing bond issues sold for the City's pavement management street improvements.

<sup>3</sup> Equipment Certificates are debt that is sold to pay for equipment and vehicles, such as fire pumps, police squads, and dump trucks. The City schedules replacement of equipment and reviews each item before the purchase is made.

# City Certifies 2009 Proposed Budget/Levy

As required by state law, the Golden Valley City Council certified a preliminary tax levy of \$16,124,650 at its September 2 meeting. It reflects an increase of 2.74 percent (to cover increased fuel and energy costs and wages) in the City's proposed 2009 general fund expenditures. The general fund provides for many City services, including police and fire operations, park and recreation programs, other state-mandated services, and more.

The proposed budget estimates a 2.4 percent decrease in revenues (not including property tax payments) due to reduced building permits, reduced interest income, and less income from state grants. Property taxes provide the difference between these revenues and expenditures to balance the budget. The City needs \$11,787,885 of property tax revenue to fund 2009 general fund operations. Adding current bond payments for the Pavement Management Program and equipment certificates brings the total to \$16,124,650 (see table at left). This amount will be collected from taxpayers in 2009 based on property values as of Jan 2, 2008 (set by Hennepin County) and tax classifications set by the state legislature.

Overall, total Golden Valley residential property values declined by 1.3% and commercial property values increased by 5.56% for taxes payable 2009. The median home value in Golden Valley was \$282,000 for taxes payable in 2008 and went to \$275,000 for taxes payable in 2009. With the current proposed budget, the median home will pay city taxes of \$1,211 per year (\$100.92 per month). This is an increase of \$43 per year (\$3.58 per month) from 2008.

The preliminary levy can be lowered, but not raised, when the Council adopts the actual 2009 levy December 16. Before the end of the year, the Council will hold additional meetings to take public input and approve a final budget and tax levy (see Truth In Taxation information at left).

For more information about how your City tax dollars are used, go to [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us). If you have questions about the City's proposed 2009 budget or tax levy, contact Finance Director Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010.

## General State Aid

Golden Valley does not receive any Local Government Aid (LGA) and is a large contributor to fiscal disparities. Both state-mandated programs have made Golden Valley more dependent on local property taxes than many cities that receive this aid. The City does receive Market Value Homestead Credit (MVHC) of about \$300,000 from the state, but that funding can be vulnerable when the state experiences a financial shortfall.

## Truth In Taxation

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

Golden Valley's Truth In Taxation public hearing is scheduled for 6:30 pm Monday, December 1. Details about the 2009 proposed budget and the City's budget process are available on the City Web site at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us).

If you have questions on the budget and/or tax levy, contact Finance Director Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010.



You are invited to experience...

## "A TASTE OF Golden Valley"

The Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF) invites you to experience an evening of great food and good company to benefit human service needs in the community.

For more information or to get tickets, contact Jeanne Fackler (763-512-2340, or [jfackler@ci.golden-valley.mn.us](mailto:jfackler@ci.golden-valley.mn.us)).

### "A TASTE OF Golden Valley"

Thurs, November 20, 2008

5:30-8 pm

Golden Valley Country Club

Tickets: \$20

# Citizen Group Helping City Reduce Carbon Footprint

What one activity causes the most carbon emissions?

If you say most greenhouse gases come from driving, or vehicle emissions, then you're like most citizens. But while traditional car emissions are responsible for 26 percent of global warming emissions, far more (32 percent) comes from electricity consumption. If you're looking to reduce your carbon footprint, this is useful information.

## City/Citizen Partnership

Since the City of Golden Valley signed the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement (MCPA) last winter (see sidebar), it has been working with its Environmental Commission to comply with the MCPA's goals. One goal is to reduce global warming pollution levels to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012. Another is to educate residents about reducing global warming pollution.

The Environmental Commission and the City are using both the MCPA and *Envision Golden Valley* to steer this work in the coming year. Along the way, they are learning valuable lessons and hope to share some of what they learn with residents.

One of the first problems encountered and lessons learned: How do you measure reductions when lowering greenhouse emissions? While it is possible, accurately measuring pollution levels can be expensive, difficult, and imprecise, as experts disagree on how to best measure carbon reduction.

But according to global warming expert J. Drake Hamilton of Fresh Energy (a nonprofit organization leading the transition to a clean, efficient, and fair energy system), being precise is not as important as taking simple steps to reduce carbon emissions.

## One Step At A Time

For example, the average Minnesota household consumes 800 kilowatt hours of electricity per month, explains Hamilton. A simple way to estimate reductions in carbon emissions is to measure your current electricity consumption and strive to lower your energy usage. Reducing electricity consumption and fossil fuel emissions can make drastic reductions in your carbon footprint.

Utilities such as Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy provide a number of tips for reducing energy consumption, saving both money and the environment. Check their Web sites at [www.xcelenergy.com](http://www.xcelenergy.com) and [www.centerpointenergy.com](http://www.centerpointenergy.com).

The City of Golden Valley is working to gauge its energy use to benchmark the effectiveness of its environmental initiatives. Take a few minutes to determine your carbon footprint, find a few things you can do around the house to reduce your carbon footprint, and strive to make some simple changes to lower your greenhouse emissions.

If you have questions about Golden Valley's environmental initiatives, contact Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom at 763-593-8046 or [alundstrom@ci.golden-valley.mn.us](mailto:alundstrom@ci.golden-valley.mn.us).

*Ryan Chandlee, Environmental Commission*



WHAT YOU PLUG IN MAY HAVE MORE IMPACT ON YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT THAN WHAT YOU DRIVE.

# Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement

The Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement encourages participants to work toward meeting the 2005 Kyoto Protocol initiatives as well as educate the public about green practices. Participating cities commit to take the following three actions:

- strive to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets in their own communities, through actions ranging from anti-sprawl land use policies to urban forest restoration projects to public information campaigns
- urge their state governments, and the federal government, to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the greenhouse gas emission reduction target suggested for the United States in the Kyoto Protocol—7 percent reduction from 1990 levels by 2012
- urge the US Congress to pass the bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation, which would establish a national emission trading system

Besides implementing a vehicle idling policy, the City of Golden Valley is making changes as building improvements are made. Examples include installing energy efficient lighting when possible, improving insulation during roof replacement projects, installing energy efficient air conditioning units when replacement is necessary, retrofitting energy efficient bulbs in traffic signals, and installing an energy efficient tankless hot water system in the utility maintenance shop.

Golden Valley is one of about 40 Minnesota cities to sign the Climate Protection Agreement so far.

For more information, contact Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom at 763-593-8046.

## Environmental Commission

Golden Valley's Environmental Commission advises and makes recommendations to the City Council in matters relating to and affecting the environment. Seven members serve three-year staggered terms. Meets fourth Monday, 7 pm in City Hall.

### Current Commissioners

- Tracy Anderson (May 2011)
- Rich Baker (May 2009)
- Ryan Chandlee (May 2010)
- Dawn Hill (May 2009)
- Jon Pawluk (May 2009) - Chair
- Jim Stremel (May 2011)
- Siah St Clair (May 2010)



## Cleaning Up Leaves Protects Water Quality

Falling leaves may be beautiful, but if left to rot, they become a year-round pollutant.

You can help keep Golden Valley's waterways clear and healthy by properly disposing of leaves and grass throughout the year. Proper disposal means not raking leaves and grass into the street, where they can clog storm drains and enter the storm sewer system.

### Why Leaves And Water Don't Mix

When leaves end up in bodies of water, they decompose and produce phosphorus (the same phosphorus found in fertilizer that makes lawns green). Not only does this feed vegetation in water and promote unwanted weed growth, but it also fosters a cycle of water quality decline.

As surface weeds and algae grow, they block sunlight from the bottom. Bottom plants, which provide food for ducks, fish, and other marine life, die from lack of light. As they decompose, oxygen-consuming bacteria blossoms to help them break down. The loss of oxygen makes it very difficult for most aquatic life to survive.

When you prevent leaves from settling in waterways, you ultimately help protect water quality.

### Learn More

For more information on phosphorus and water quality, visit the City Web site ([www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/waterresources.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/waterresources.htm)).

# Take Advantage Of GV's Fall Leaf Drop-Off

Don't let leaves languish. Take advantage of Golden Valley's *Fall Leaf Drop-Off* and do your part to keep area waters clear and healthy.

The *Fall Leaf Drop-Off* provides residents a place to dispose of their leaves at no charge during late fall weekends (see leaf below). As in previous years, the drop-off site will be at Brookview Park, south of Hwy 55 at Winnetka Ave. During drop-off days, Brookview Parkway becomes a one-way road. All traffic must enter the site from Winnetka Ave S and exit on Western Ave. City personnel will direct vehicles to drop-off points, where other personnel will help residents unload or de-bag leaves.

### Guidelines

- Participants must provide proof of Golden Valley residency (Minnesota driver's license, ID, or proof of identity and address).
- Residents must untie leaf bags, help de-bag their leaves at the site, and take the bags home for reuse or disposal (see tips below for conserving bags). No brush will be accepted.
- Residents hauling loose leaves must help unload their leaves at the site (see tips below for loading loose leaves).

### LEAF DROP-OFF

Sat, Nov 1,  
7 am - 1 pm

Fri, Nov 7,  
8 am - 4 pm

Sat, Nov 8,  
7 am - 1 pm

Sat, Nov 15,  
8 am - 4 pm

### Brookview Park

(south of  
Hwy 55 at  
Winnetka Ave)

## Golden Valley Recycles

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

### Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 29
Christmas	Sat, Dec 27
New Year's '09	Sat, Jan 3
Memorial Day '09	Sat, May 30
July 4 '09	Fri, July 3
Labor Day '09	Sat, Sept 5

### Missed Pick Ups

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

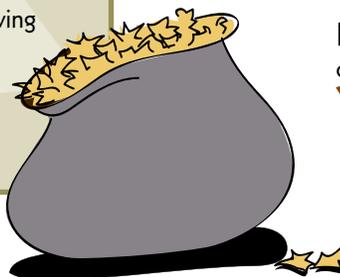
If you have specific recycling questions, call 763-593-8030.

### Suggestions

- For fast unloading and to conserve your bags, leave them untied. A parking area will be provided for residents to untie their bags before getting in line.
- If you're hauling loose leaves, line the trailer or truck bed with a tarp before loading the leaves. To unload, help the workers lift the corners of the tarp and dump the leaves into the drop-off area.

If you miss the *Leaf Drop-Off*, contact your garbage hauler for its policies and rates or check the *Yellow Pages* for names of commercial yard waste processing sites. The Maple Grove Yard Waste Site (14796 101<sup>st</sup> Ave N) accepts leaves and brush up to 10 inches in diameter for \$7/cubic yard April through November. Grass is accepted for \$13/cubic yard. Open Monday through Saturday, 8 am to 7 pm, and Sunday, noon to 7 pm. Site closes November 30 and re-opens April 1 each year. For more information, contact the Yard Waste Site directly at 763-420-8971 or visit [www.mgyardwaste.com](http://www.mgyardwaste.com).

If you have questions about yard waste, call Public Works at 763-593-8030.



# Mighty Tidy Day: Bring Out Your Unwanted Items

Getting rid of unwanted items is now easier than ever. This year for the first time, the Mighty Tidy Day event will allow you to drop off electronics for free.

By 2010, solid waste generation in the Metro region will have increased more than one million tons over 2000 numbers, according to the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance (MOEA). By 2020, the Metro area is projected to produce six million tons of waste, nearly twice the amount generated in 2000.

That's why it's more important than ever to take part in programs like Golden Valley's *Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day*. If you have unwanted household items, the fifth annual event is a cost-friendly, environmentally smart way to get rid of them.

This year's *Mighty Tidy Day* is Saturday, October 11, 8 am to 1 pm, at Brookview Park. Residents can dispose of mattresses, sofas, broken bicycles, tires, old appliances, computers, and televisions (see box below for list of items and fees). Textiles such as clothes, footwear, purses, and belts are accepted at no charge. Items must be dry and somewhat clean.

## Why Participate?

According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MnPCA), Minnesota leads the country in diverting solid waste away from landfills to resource recovery facilities. Still, MOEA also reports that much of the discarded materials contain toxins that threaten public health and the environment.

During the 2007 *Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day*, the City collected nearly 17 tons of bulk waste, more than three tons of metal, 83 appliances, 11,500 lbs of electronics, about 50 car batteries, 50 tires, and 44 fluorescent bulbs.

## How To Participate

*Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day* is open only to Golden Valley residents. Proof of residency will be required at the entrance.

Enter Brookview Parkway (it will be a one-way road for the event) from the north along Winnetka Ave. Workers will collect the appropriate fee by cash or check (see list below) and direct you to one of three lots. No hazardous waste (motor oil, asbestos, cleaning solvents, pool chemicals, etc) is accepted. For more information on *Mighty Tidy Day*, call Golden Valley's Environmental Coordinator at 763-593-8046.

**NEW:**  
Drop off  
electronics at  
no charge.

**MIGHTY TIDY DAY**  
Saturday, October 11  
8 am - 1 pm  
**Brookview Park**  
(south of Hwy 55 & Winnetka Ave)

## MIGHTY TIDY DAY DISPOSAL COSTS

Lot 1	Lot 2	Lot 3
<b>ELECTRONICS</b> ..... no charge	<b>SCRAP METAL</b>	<b>Bulk Items</b>
<b>Tires/BATTERIES/Bulbs</b>	Clean metal ..... no charge	Mattress/Box Spring (any size)..... \$15
Car tire ..... \$ 5	Other (bikes, etc).... \$ 5	Couch ..... \$20
Truck tire ..... \$ 7	<b>Appliances</b>	Hide-A-Bed ..... \$25
Tire rims ..... \$ 2	Non-refrigeration ..... \$20	Chair (small)..... \$ 5
Batteries ..... \$ 3	Freon units ..... \$24	Chair (large)..... \$10
Bulbs..... \$ 2		<b>Misc Items</b> ..... \$18/yard
<b>TEXTILES</b> ..... no charge		

## CHOOSE TO REUSE IN OCTOBER

Every year, 32 million pounds of usable items are thrown away in Hennepin County. Residents can Choose to Reuse and help reduce the volume of waste thrown away by supporting businesses and organizations in the community that provide opportunities to rent, repair, resell, consign, trade, sell bulk, and exchange used goods. Residents can save money, help reduce waste, and support the local economy by thinking about reuse when shopping.

Helping the environment has never been so much fun. To encourage more reuse, Hennepin County Environmental Services is hosting the seventh annual Choose To Reuse program in October. The County has partnered with 84 businesses and organizations to offer coupon booklets. Local participants include:

- Down In The Valley, National Camera Exchange, and Creative Sewing Centers Inc in Golden Valley
- Cash N Pawn, Down In The Valley, and Maranatha Storehouse in Crystal
- Arc's Value Village and Unique Thrift Store in New Hope
- Knights Formalwear, Cartridge World, and Norcostco-Northwestern Costume in Plymouth
- Home at Last in Robbinsdale
- Once Upon A Child, Jerry's Hardware, OceanTech, and Second Debut Renewed Fashions and Art in St Louis Park

For a complete list, go to [www.hennepin.us](http://www.hennepin.us) and search "Choose To Reuse Month." While there, download a copy of the "Save Cash, Save the Planet! Get Great Stuff" Choose To Reuse Month Coupon Book. Customers can also get the Coupon Book at participating "Choose To Reuse" locations, Hennepin County Service Centers and Libraries, and all Three Rivers Park District locations.

For more information, visit Hennepin County Environmental Services Web site at [www.hennepin.us](http://www.hennepin.us) or call 612-348-3777.

## Recreation OPPORTUNITIES

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

**Pilates**—Mon, Oct 6—Dec 1, 6:30—7:30 pm, \$63.

**Yoga**—Tue, Oct 7—Dec 9, 11am—noon, \$56.

**Tuning Forks: What Are They?**—Healing using sound waves. Oct 8, 6:30—7:30 pm, \$16.

**Kids Club** (ages 3—5)—Starts Oct 22 & 28, Mon/Wed or Tue/Thu, 9:30—11 am, \$38/12 classes.

**Monster Mash Teen Dance** (grades 5—7)—Oct 24, 7—9:30pm, \$5 before Oct 23, \$8 at the door.

**Spooktacular** (ages 4—10)—Oct 25, Crystal Community Center.

**Chess for Parent & Tots** (ages 3—6)—Wed, Oct 29—Dec 10, 10—11 am, New Hope Ice Arena, \$25 (residents).

**Basketball Winter Warm-up**—Grades 2—3: Tue, Nov 11—Dec 16, 6—7:30 pm, Davis Community Center; Grades 4—6: Mon, Nov 10—Dec 15, 6—7:30 pm, Forest (Crystal). \$40.

**Tap & Ballet** (ages 4—18)—Sat mornings beginning Nov 15, \$36.

**Create a Photo Album with Mommy or Daddy** (ages 6+ w/adult)—Nov 15, 1—2:30 pm, \$15.

**Swing & Social Ballroom Dance**—Sun, Nov 16—Dec 7, 7:30—9 pm, \$50/person.

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**

# Don't Let Winter Chill Your Exercise Routine

With winter coming on and the temperature dropping, it gets harder to go outside and stay active. But regular physical activity performed most days of the week reduces the risk of developing or dying from some of the leading causes of illness and death, according to the US Department of Health.

So what to do?

First of all, there are the old winter standbys: skiing, snowshoeing, shoveling, etc. But winter exercise doesn't have to be rigorous.

Walking is considered one of the best forms of exercise and you don't have to put it on hold just because of snow.

By keeping more than 40 miles of its trails plowed and ice-free all year round, Golden Valley encourages walking every season of the year.

But if you can't stand the cold, Golden Valley Park & Recreation offers indoor walking programs several times per week all winter long at Crystal Community Center and Sandburg School. The program at Crystal Community Center is 10 am—2 pm, Monday—Friday. Call 763-531-0052 for more information (black-soled shoes are not allowed). The program at Sandburg is 5:30—8:30 pm, Monday—Thursday. Walkers can call 763-512-2345 to receive an information packet and schedule.

If walking's not for you, Golden Valley's Recreation Department offers a variety of other activities people can get involved in during the winter months, including line and belly dancing, kickboxing, yoga, Pilates, and even Tae Kwon Do. Keep an eye on the City's Web site, [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us), for a list of fall activities and upcoming list of winter programs.

With the indoor programs, "you don't have to worry about ice or it getting dark at night," says Sue Cook, recreation supervisor. "You can keep exercising."

Other options: Walk at the mall, visit an indoor pool, join a health club, or buy some personal exercise equipment. For the sake of your physical and mental health, don't let winter send you into hibernation. ❧



photo by Patricia Ruben-Miller



photo by Doug Hubred

ENJOY THE BEAUTY OF THE WINTER IN GOLDEN VALLEY FROM THE TRAILS—WHETHER BY FOOT, SNOWSHOE, OR SKI.

## Community Service

### Help Feed Starving Children

Meet other folks and build a positive sense of community by addressing the worst world food crisis in recent history. Thousands of volunteer hours and dollars are needed for the Kids Against Hunger meal pack-out at Calvary Lutheran Church.

Calvary is seeking involvement from Bridge Builders and the larger community—both individuals and groups—to package half a million high-nutrition meals to be shipped around the world. The packout will be at Calvary Lutheran Church (7520 Golden Valley Rd) from Friday, Oct 31 to Sunday, Nov 9. Two-hour shifts begin at 4 pm on weekdays and 8 am on Saturday and Sunday. The last shift each night is 8—10 pm.

For more information or to get involved, contact Dorree Adelman at 763-231-2973 or [dadelmann@calvary.org](mailto:dadelmann@calvary.org). ❧



photo from [feedingchildren.org](http://feedingchildren.org)

# Brookview Named One Of Best Places To Golf



The City of Golden Valley's Brookview Golf Course was named one of the "Best Places to Play" this summer by the readers of *Golf Digest*. The course received a four-star rating, which is listed as "outstanding—plan your next vacation around it."

This year's "Best Places to Play" rated nearly 6,000 courses in North America and the Islands.

The courses, ranked from one to five stars, were evaluated by approximately 20,000 *Golf Digest* readers. Readers called Brookview a "nice muni course" with a "fun layout," "lengthy par 5s," "nice greens," and "great views on holes 16, 17 and 18." They also rated the course a "good, fair test" that is "inexpensive" and "close to downtown."

Another reader summarized Brookview as a "very good course that keeps getting better with age."

Brookview Golf Operations Manager Ben Disch says the staff is honored with the recognition. "The credit goes to the maintenance staff, who provide excellent course conditions, day in, day out," he says.

Brookview was built in the 1920s and operated as a private country club until 1947. New owners named it Brookview Golf Club and kept it as a private 18-hole regulation course, complete with a swimming pool, a clubhouse with a full dining room, a bar room, a pro shop, and locker rooms. The City bought it in 1967 and began official operations at Brookview Golf Course in 1969. The Par 3 course was added in 1977.

Today Brookview Golf Course offers an 18-Hole Regulation Course and a 9-Hole Par 3, a driving range and teaching area, and a golf shop and grill. While the City of Golden Valley owns Brookview, no taxpayer money goes toward funding its maintenance, operations, or capital improvements. Brookview Golf Operations is funded 100% by user fees.

In 2009, the City of Golden Valley will celebrate its 40th anniversary of operating Brookview Golf Course. Festivities will include a community golf tournament and other promotions, says Disch. Details will be published in upcoming editions of *CityNews* and on the Brookview Web site at [www.brookviewgolf.com](http://www.brookviewgolf.com).

For more information about the "Best Places to Play" recognition program, go to [www.golfdigest.com](http://www.golfdigest.com).



## Fall Rates

Fall rates at Brookview Golf Course start around mid-October:

### Sunrise

Mon–Fri (times vary with sunrise)  
Play nine holes off #10 for \$14.50

### Sunset

Mon–Sun, 5:30 pm  
All the holes you can play for \$14.50

### Twilight

Fri, Sat, Sun after 3 pm  
All the holes you can play for \$18.50

## SENIOR *Stuff*

Unless noted otherwise, most activities are at Brookview Community Center and require advance registration with the Seniors Program office (see below).

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**Happy Feet Foot Care Clinic**—Oct 21 and Nov 18, \$30. Call 763-560-5136 to schedule appointment.

**Blood Pressure Screening**—Oct 22, 11–11:30 am.

**Defensive Driving 4-Hour Refresher Course**—Oct 9, Nov 13, and Dec 11. \$16. Register in advance with the Minnesota Safety Council, 474 Concordia Ave, St Paul, 55103.

### SPEAKERS

Stimulate your mind with these events:

- **Coffee Talk**—Oct 22: "Senior Services," 9:45 am. Register by Oct 20.
- **Living Wise and Well**—Nov 6: "All You Ever Wanted To Know About Hospice," 1 pm, Calvary Center Cooperative, 7600 Golden Valley Rd.
- **Money Matters**—Oct 16: "Health Insurance Planning for Retirement;" Nov 20: "Probating an Estate." Both at 10 am.
- **"Maintain Your Brain: How to Live a Brain-Healthy Lifestyle"**—Nov 19, 6 pm, Golden Valley Library, 830 Winnetka Ave. Register by Nov 14.

### UPCOMING TRIPS (REGISTER EARLY)

Oct 24: Geritol Frolics, \$59/person. Register by Oct 1.

Nov 13: "Mystery Trip," \$52/person. Register by Oct 20.

Dec 9: Holiday Humor & Lights, \$61. Register by Oct 21.

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

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

# Clean, Healthy Waterways Require Community Cooperation, City Vigilance



If you walk along the 600-foot Sweeney Branch stretch of Bassett Creek, on the south side of Glenwood Ave near King Creek Rd, you'd see a waterway virtually unrecognizable from what it was just six months ago.

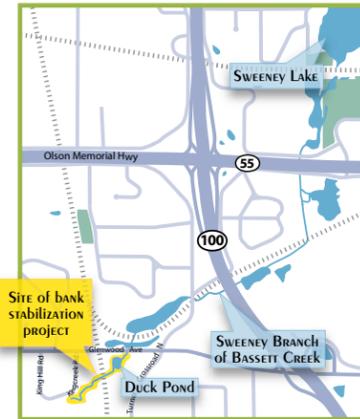
Instead of a creek bordered by eroding dirt banks running at a 90-degree angle with the water, you'll see a waterway flanked by gradually sloped banks reinforced by native vegetation and fieldstone. Instead of a stream carrying eroded mud and sand toward Sweeney Lake and filling up connecting ponds, you'll see a stream with natural bends and pools that reduce harmful sediment. The improvement project was funded by the Bassett Creek Water Management Commission and constructed by the City of Golden Valley.

Over the years, Duck Pond (located on the south side of Glenwood Ave) had received the brunt of Sweeney Branch's run-off and was an indicator of how big the problem had become. The erosion filled the pond until it resembled little more than a mud pit. Today, the pond is clear and restored to its original depth.

The changes are all thanks to a larger initiative by the Bassett Creek Water Management Commission (BCWMC) to improve the water quality of lakes and streams within the watershed, explains Golden Valley Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom. If the City and the BCWMC stood by and did nothing to prevent creek erosion and pollution run-off, eventually Sweeney Lake "wouldn't be swimmable or fishable," and it would contribute to pollution of other waterways, including the Mississippi River. While Golden Valley has always been mindful of surface water quality, Lundstrom says, a recent federal mandate has cast a bigger spotlight on the issue.

## Why The Concerted Effort?

Sweeney Lake is a 67-acre body of water in Golden Valley surrounded by 2,360 acres of drainage area. The lake was placed on the 2004 list of "impaired waters" as determined by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Impaired waters are streams, rivers, and lakes that currently do not meet their designated use and associated water quality standards.



Sweeney made the list because of excess nutrients (phosphorus), which can come from sediments, dead vegetation, and fertilizer (see sidebar on page 4). Phosphorus promotes algae and surface vegetation that make a lake murky and block sunlight from reaching plants on the lake bottom, plants that provide oxygen and food for ducks, fish, and other marine life. As these plants decompose, they use up water oxygen, making it harder for aquatic life to survive.

Of the Minnesota lakes to be assessed so far, about 40 percent have been labeled as impaired, meaning nearly half of the state's water bodies are facing the same water quality challenges.

## Cleaning It Up

Sweeney Lake's large drainage area means neighborhoods on the other side of town are essentially part of that lakeshore, Lundstrom says. Highways, streets, and yards are also extensions of shorelines. Chemicals used within the watershed eventually get washed into local waterways. Decomposing vegetation (leaves and grass clippings) that are washed into storm sewers and waterways bring phosphorus along with them.

When it comes to cleaning up local waterways, the City can only do so much by itself.

Part of the City's overall initiative to improve water quality is to educate residents about such water quality issues. Efforts include the Catch Basin Stenciling Program (a coordinated project to paint educational messages on storm drains and catch basins), regular publication of educational articles and materials, and public information meetings. Other initiatives include city-wide street sweeping and an annual leaf drop-off program (see page 4), both of which help keep vegetation and sediment out of local waterways.

In addition to creek stabilization and pond dredging projects, Golden Valley has also encouraged and implemented shoreline "buffer zones" around Sweeney Lake and other water bodies. City and state environmental officials like to see at least 15 feet of vegetation between a yard and a water body, says Lundstrom. Native plants and grasses act as good filters to sift out phosphorus and other pollutants.

Last year, the BCWMC launched a study to identify sources of phosphorus entering Sweeney Lake. And every year Golden Valley Public Works staff literally walk up and down Bassett Creek to identify problem areas.

But when it comes to cleaning up local waterways, the City can only do so much by itself, Lundstrom says.

Residents can help by limiting the use of chemicals and fertilizers to treat their lawns, installing buffer zones, planting native vegetation along their shoreline, and by keeping their leaves out of the street.

With the use of these best management practices, and with the help of the community, local waterways should show significant improvements, Lundstrom says. "Every effort counts toward keeping area waterways clean, healthy, and beautiful."

"We're very satisfied with the outcome of Sweeney Branch project," Lundstrom says, adding that more water-quality projects are being considered. Stretches of Bassett Creek near the Briarwood Bird Sanctuary and North Duluth St are being considered for stabilization projects that could get underway between 2010 and 2012.

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

## Before & After

### Duck Pond



The Sweeney Branch stretch of Bassett Creek suffered from severe erosion and mud build-up, which jeopardized nearby Duck Pond and Sweeney Lake...



Oxbow



### Looking Downstream



...So this spring the City reinforced the banks of the creek with rock and native plants and dredged Duck Pond to clear it of mud build-up, leaving a cleaner, more fluent, and environmentally friendly waterway.

## **GVPDU** Fall, Winter Events

To attend any of these classes, RSVP by calling the GVPD at 763-593-8079 or with an email to [police@ci.golden-valley.mn.us](mailto:police@ci.golden-valley.mn.us).

### **Career Day**

**Oct 16, 9 am–3 pm**  
(For 12- to 18-year-olds.  
Space is limited to 20;  
lunch is provided.)



Thinking about a career in law enforcement? Learn from members of the Golden Valley Police Department what it's really like to be a police officer. Spend the day in their shoes learning about police activities. All participants will have the opportunity for a ride-along with an officer (with parental permission) within two weeks after completing the course.

### **Police Summit**

**Nov 13 and 20, 6–9 pm** (Space is limited to 40 Golden Valley residents or business owners. Light supper and snack provided.)

Learn more about the GVPD, and provide feedback about crime concerns and department performance measures. Both sessions will include:

- presentations on GVPD functions (patrol deployment, investigations, crime prevention, use of force, and school/juvenile crime)
- a building tour
- focus groups to discuss community expectations and priorities for 2009

### **Crime Lab**

**Dec 2, 6:30–8:30 pm**

Learn about the services the Hennepin County Crime Lab provides to the , including crime scene processing, latent fingerprints, and DNA/biology testing.

These crime lab technicians, and the sheriff's deputies who collect evidence at crime scenes, are the first team of crime scene investigators in Minnesota to earn American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board certification, and just the thirteenth in the entire nation. 

# Phony Craig's List Sales Lead To Armed Robberies

Three people, each one thinking they were making a sales transaction with someone they met on Craig's List, were robbed this summer at various Golden Valley locations.

After showing interest in a for-sale item on the Craig's List Web site, the victims allowed the "seller" to determine where the exchange would take place. The suspect picked areas away from the view of other people, like a parking lot behind an apartment building. Once the victim arrived, with hundreds of dollars in hand, the suspect pulled out a gun and took the money.

The lesson to be learned here? "Don't meet strangers in non-public places," says Joanne Paul, Golden Valley crime prevention specialist. "Seems like obvious advice, but sometimes it's easy to be tricked," she says.

"Just be smart about it," she adds. "Don't go to somebody's home. Go to a public area, like a coffee shop."

Unlike eBay, where most transactions are through the mail, Craig's List is localized and often requires that people meet face-to-face for the transactions.

But "if anything seems out of the ordinary, or if the seller is really pushy about where to meet, it's not worth it," Paul says. If, she adds, you have to meet the seller in a non-public place, for example, if you're picking up a used boat at their home, then bring along a bunch of friends. Never make the transaction alone, or you could be the next victim.

Police believe the suspect of the August crimes was the same person in all three robberies and was aided by accomplices who acted as lookouts, making sure no witnesses observed the crime. There have been similar robberies in other metro cities as well.

"When used by law-abiding citizens, services such as Craig's List provide an alternative to buying through traditional retail pricing structures. When used by criminals, an otherwise 'good deal' can turn into a dangerous or life-threatening situation for innocent parties," says Golden Valley Police Chief Stacy Altonen.

The Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) continues to investigate the robberies.

## **REWARD**

The GVPD is offering up to a \$1,000 cash reward for the arrest and conviction of the individual(s) responsible for these crimes. If you have any information on this crime, please contact the GVPD at 763-593-8079 or [police@ci.golden-valley.mn.us](mailto:police@ci.golden-valley.mn.us). 



**BE CAUTIOUS WHEN MAKING FACE-TO-FACE TRANSACTIONS WITH ONLINE SELLERS. ALWAYS MEET IN A PUBLIC PLACE.**

# Fire Drill Season Is Upon Area K-12 Students

Every time Fire Prevention Week rolls around, it's an opportunity to educate children and get them thinking about fire safety, says Ed Anderson, Golden Valley deputy fire marshal. That's why Golden Valley has been performing October fire drills in area schools for the past 20 years.

"It's been a great, great success," Anderson says. "It is important for the kids to develop fire-escape skills at school that they can use to carry out a fire drill escape plan at home." The drills also give kids a chance to see the fire trucks and mingle with the firefighters. "It's an all-around good experience for them."

And it's a good experience for the firefighters, too, Anderson adds.

"There's a lot of satisfaction working with kids, and teaching them how to be safe," he says.

The Golden Valley Fire Department did not conduct fire drills until Anderson joined the Department in the late 1980s. He pushed for it as soon as he came on board.



"I've always been an advocate of proactive education," Anderson says. "It wasn't hard to get this approved."

According to state statute: "All public and private schools and other educational institutions in Minnesota must have at least five fire drills per year. The school must keep records of the date of each drill and the time required to evacuate the building,

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**"There's a lot of satisfaction working with kids, and teaching them how to be safe."**  
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and these records must be available for inspection by the state fire marshal. All doors and exits in the building must be kept unlocked from the inside of the building during school hours."

The Golden Valley Fire Department likes to keep the fire drill dates a secret so the drills don't become routine, but plans are to conduct the first drills during Fire Prevention Week, Oct 5-8. Preventing home fires is the theme of this year's Fire Prevention Week. 

# Beware CO Leaks In Your Home

Late fall and early winter marks the most dangerous time in the year for carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.



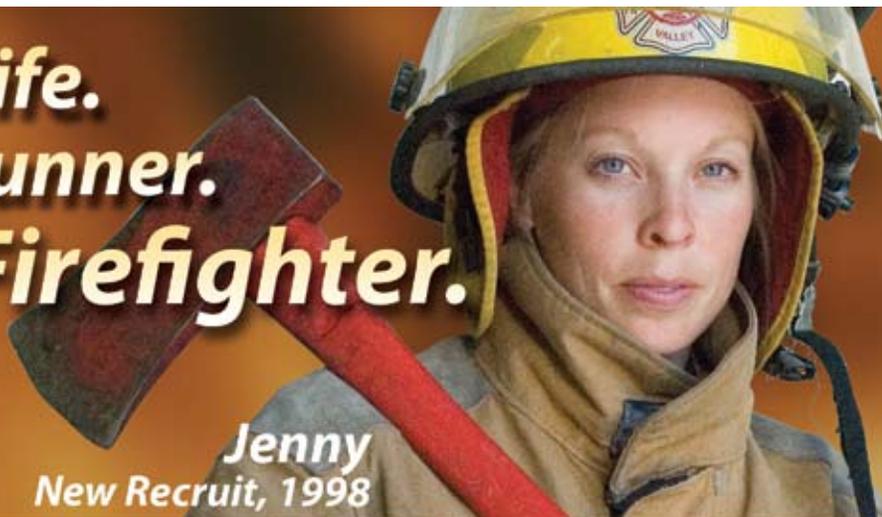
According to the Minnesota Department of Health, CO is an odorless, colorless gas, often a by-product of burning, that interferes with normal oxygen uptake. It's dangerous because the human body mistakes CO for oxygen, leading to a replacement of oxygen molecules in the bloodstream with CO molecules. 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.

- Keep a CO alarm within 10 feet of any sleeping area. Not only is this practical, it's also the law.
- 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 Golden Valley Fire Education Specialist/Training Coordinator Stephen Baker at 763-593-3977. 

**Wife.  
 Runner.  
 Firefighter.**



**Jenny**  
 New Recruit, 1998

**[goldenvalleyfire.com](http://goldenvalleyfire.com)**

## Natchez & North Tyrol Parks Get Updates

Golden Valley has 19 playgrounds, which means the City is continually replacing and updating equipment to meet ever-changing safety and accessibility standards (see story at right).

The City replaces about two playgrounds a year, choosing those that are generally the oldest or most worn, says Rick Jacobson, Golden Valley park and recreation director.

"It's a revolving process," he says.

Last spring the City replaced equipment at North Tyrol Park; replacement at Natchez Park is scheduled for October.

Questions? Contact Park Maintenance Supervisor Ron Hammer at 763-593-8045. 

# Playgrounds A Lot Safer Than They Used To Be

If you're older than 25, you've likely noticed playgrounds have undergone major changes. They're hardly recognizable from what they were.

Remember the old wooden ship in Brookview Park? By today's standards, that boat would fail on multiple counts of safety regulations, which is one of the reasons it was removed several years ago. Remember the teeter-totter? You'll be hard-pressed to find that particular piece of equipment as you may remember it in a modern playground. It was the cause of too many injuries, says Ron Hammer, Golden Valley park maintenance supervisor.

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimated that in recent years, there were more than 156,000 injuries annually on public playgrounds across the country that required emergency room treatment.

Nearly 80 percent of serious playground injuries are caused by falls. So, Hammer says, no piece of modern equipment should be built over hard-top, and none of it should exceed the "critical height" regulation (the height at which a child can fall and sustain serious head trauma). The second leading cause of serious playground injury is collision between two children or a child and a stationary object. This means all equipment is spaced apart, much more than it used to be, to give kids plenty of room to swing, jump, and tumble.

Changes to playground equipment safety standards are largely the result of studies conducted over the last 30 years by the CPSC and the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). In 1981, the CPSC released a detailed handbook on playground safety guidelines, with several revisions published during the 1990s. While cities and schools are not mandated to meet the standards, Hammer says, it's the responsible thing to do. All of Golden Valley's playground equipment meets CPSC and ASTM standards.

In addition to purchasing equipment that's up to snuff with modern guidelines, the City also makes routine safety checks, Hammer says. City staff inspects the equipment, right down to each individual bolt, at least once per month.

All equipment is designed for specific age groups, he adds. So damaged or worn equipment is often the result of adults or teenagers misusing it. Depending on the level of use, playgrounds are replaced about once every 15 to 20 years, Hammer says.

The cost of modern playground equipment far exceeds the costs of what it used to be even just 20 years ago, Hammer says. Most equipment is now made of aluminum or steel. The costs of these materials, as well as the demand for up-to-date designs, have increased prices.

But when you're talking about children's safety, it's worth it, says Rick Jacobson, Golden Valley park and recreation director. "Playgrounds should be fun and adventurous, but safe." 

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 "Playgrounds should be fun and adventurous, but safe."  
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BROOKVIEW PARK'S old wooden ship (top photo), CONSIDERED ACCEPTABLE AT ONE TIME, WAS REPLACED SEVERAL YEARS AGO WITH EQUIPMENT THAT MEETS MODERN SAFETY GUIDELINES.

# Spring Hailstorm Pounds Inspections Department

Look at a map marking the locations of roofing permits issued in Golden Valley this summer, and it's easy to see the exact path of the late-May hailstorm, a storm that in some cases upped City inspectors' workloads 20-fold compared to an average season.

In June, July, and August, the City issued 1,412 roofing permits. In summer 2007, that number was 113. In 2005, it was just 65, or almost 22 times fewer than summer 2008.

"I've been here 21 years, and this is the first time I've seen something like this," says Gary Johnson, Golden Valley's chief building official. While last fall's windstorm downed branches and trees throughout the area, it didn't come close to the amount of roof damage caused by the extensive hail this spring, he adds.

As a result, Golden Valley's Inspections Department got its busiest summer in decades. To handle the workload, the City hired a full-time inspections intern, paid for some overtime hours, and performed three times the inspections of an average summer, says Johnson. The additional costs are covered by revenues from the increased number of permits issued.

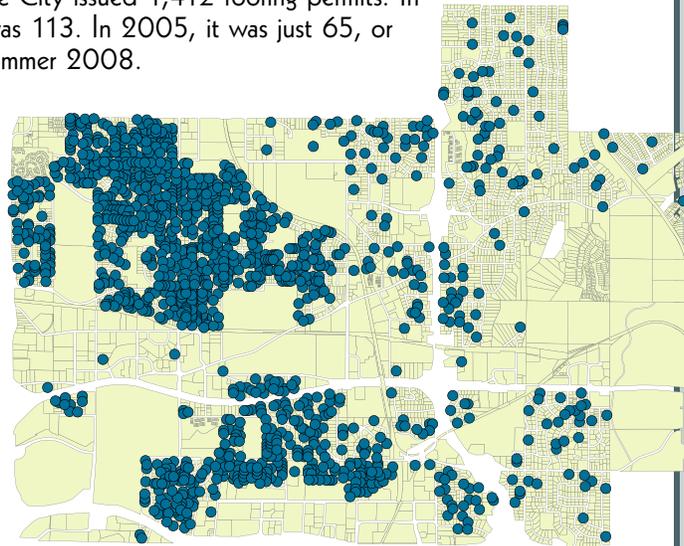
The demand for inspections will remain high right up to the first snow, says Mark Kuhnly, chief of fire and inspections. "We anticipate the workload will extend into next summer." For every roofing permit issued, the City must conduct a minimum of two inspections. The City performed 3,200 inspections June through August.

In light of the storm, Kuhnly and Johnson offer one piece of caution to Golden Valley residents: know your contractor. After a major storm, disingenuous or unlicensed contractors can take advantage of distraught homeowners. Before hiring anyone, be sure to get a license number and then contact the Department of Labor and Industry at 651-284-5065 or 1-800-342-5354 to confirm the contractor's status.

For more information, contact the Inspections Department at 763-593-8090.



GOLDEN VALLEY RESIDENTS TIM ERICKSON AND CANDIS ERICKSON TOOK THESE PHOTOS AFTER THE HAIL.



THE CITY ISSUED 1,412 ROOFING PERMITS IN SUMMER 2008, MORE THAN 10 TIMES THE AMOUNT ISSUED DURING THE PREVIOUS SUMMER.

## Tips For Do-It-Yourself Wiring

Circuit installation and wiring requires a large amount of skill and experience, and certain installations are best left to professionals. But if you'd like do to your own home wiring, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Remember to get your permit ahead of time and the necessary inspections during and afterwards. An inspection must be done before any wiring is covered with insulation, sheet rock, paneling, etc. Underground wiring must be inspected before the trench is covered. Once the project is completed, a final inspection is required by the state electrical inspector. Permit applications are available at [www.electricity.state.mn.us](http://www.electricity.state.mn.us). Schedule an appointment with the state electrical inspector at 651-284-5064.
- Separate 20 amp circuits are required for additions and remodeled areas in bathrooms, kitchens, and laundry rooms.
- Most appliances, such as dishwasher, disposal, furnace, air conditioner, electric range, electric dryer, and microwave require separate circuits.
- General lighting requires a 15 amp circuit for every 600 square feet.
- Ground fault circuit interrupters are required for all receptacles in bathrooms, garages, unfinished basements, kitchens (counters), and outside.
- All circuit boxes must have a minimum wire length of six inches.
- Do not conceal junction boxes in walls.
- Plastic cables must be strapped within eight inches of boxes and at intervals of no more than 4-1/2 feet.
- Keep cable routing simple.
- Use pig-tail splices at all splice locations.

These tips are not intended to be, nor should be considered, a complete set of requirements. For more information, call the state electrical inspector at 651-284-5064.

## WANTED: Your Opinion

The Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) wants feedback about its quality of service as well as your thoughts on crime and safety in Golden Valley. To participate, complete the online survey at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us) (click on "GVPD Community Survey"). Paper copies are also available at the front desk of the Public Safety Building (7800 Golden Valley Road). Questions? Call 763-593-8079.

## TZD: A Laudable Community Goal

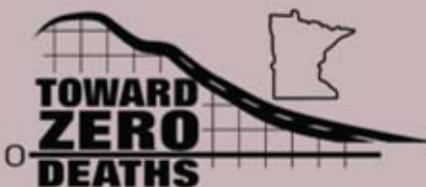
The Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety, has made it a priority to move Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) in Minnesota.

In 2006, the number of statewide deaths from auto crashes dropped below 500 for the first time in decades. Many factors affect this—notably, auto design, road design, and enforcement.

TZD is an important goal for every police agency in Minnesota. Recently, the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD), in partnership with the New Hope Police Department, received a state grant to deploy extra patrols to locate and take action against traffic violators. Through the year, targeted areas of enforcement include drunk driving, speeding, inattentive driving, seat belt violations, and child passenger safety.

Livability is important to Golden Valley residents. One component of that is driving with safety in mind. Make TZD important to you and your family. For more information, visit the Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety at [www.dps.state.mn.us](http://www.dps.state.mn.us).

If you have questions about traffic safety, contact the GVPD at 763-593-8079.



# State Passes New Laws For Teen Drivers

Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for Minnesota teens. Effective Aug 1, 2008, several new Minnesota laws will help teens hone driving skills and reduce exposure to high-risk situations. Violating these laws is a misdemeanor. Teens can qualify for a full-privileges driver's license only if they have a safe driving record or are age 18.

## Driving And Passenger Limitations

For the first six months of licensure, teens cannot drive between midnight and 5 am except when:

- accompanied by a licensed driver age 25 or older
- driving between home and a job
- driving to/from home and a school event for which there is no school transportation
- driving for employment purposes

Teens are also permitted only one passenger under age 20, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

For the second six months of licensure, teens are permitted no more than three passengers under the age of 20, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. Otherwise, the only permitted passengers under the age of 20 are immediate family members.



*Teen drivers have to follow some new rules of the road in Minnesota.*

## Behavior While Driving

Drivers and passengers under age 18 must wear a seat belt or be properly secured in a child restraint.

It is illegal for drivers under age 18 to use a cellular/wireless phone, whether hand-held or hands-free, except to call 911 in an emergency. It is also now illegal for drivers of all ages to compose, read, or send text messages or access the internet on a wireless device while on the road.

It is illegal for persons under age 21 to drive after consuming any amount of alcohol. Teen drivers who violate this law or who have their licenses revoked because of a crash cannot regain a license until age 18.

## Developing Safe Drivers

Parents and other adults can help teens become safe drivers by being positive role models—buckle up, be attentive, and drive safely and not aggressively.

"Teens need supervised exposure to a variety of driving conditions and environments," says Police Chief Stacy Altonen. "Keep monitoring and training teen drivers even after they get their licenses. If they violate traffic laws or the new teen driving laws, follow up with your own consequences."

For more information about safe driving and teen driving laws, visit [www.mndriveinfo.org](http://www.mndriveinfo.org).



# VOTE On Nov 4

Polls in Golden Valley are open 7 am–8 pm Tuesday, Nov 4 for the general election. You may only vote in person at your assigned polling place but may vote absentee ahead of time if conditions warrant. Polling places are listed on page 16.

## ABSENTEE VOTING

Absentee voting is available for those who can't get to their polling place on election day because of illness or disability, absence from the precinct, religious observance, or service as an election judge in another precinct. There are two ways to do this:

- **Vote In Person** Vote at Golden Valley City Hall during regular business hours, 8 am to 4:30 pm. Extended absentee voting hours will be available Saturday, November 1, from 10 am to 3 pm, and Monday, November 3 until 5 pm.
- **Vote By Mail** An application for an absentee ballot can be picked up at City Hall or downloaded from the City Web site. If voting by mail, your voted ballot must arrive at City Hall by election day for the vote to count, so allow enough time for postal service delivery. If you have questions about absentee voting, contact Edie Ernst at 763-593-8017.

Absentee voting is available starting October 3.

## VOTER REGISTRATION

Minnesota allows voters to register to vote at the polls on election day (see sidebar for required identification). You will need to register if you have never registered to vote, if you have changed your name or address since you last voted (including moving to another apartment in the same building), or if you have not voted in four years.

If you have questions about elections or voting in Golden Valley, contact City Clerk Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010.

# REGISTER On Election Day

Golden Valley residents who register to vote at their polling places (see sidebar on page 16) on election day will need to verify residence with one of the following:

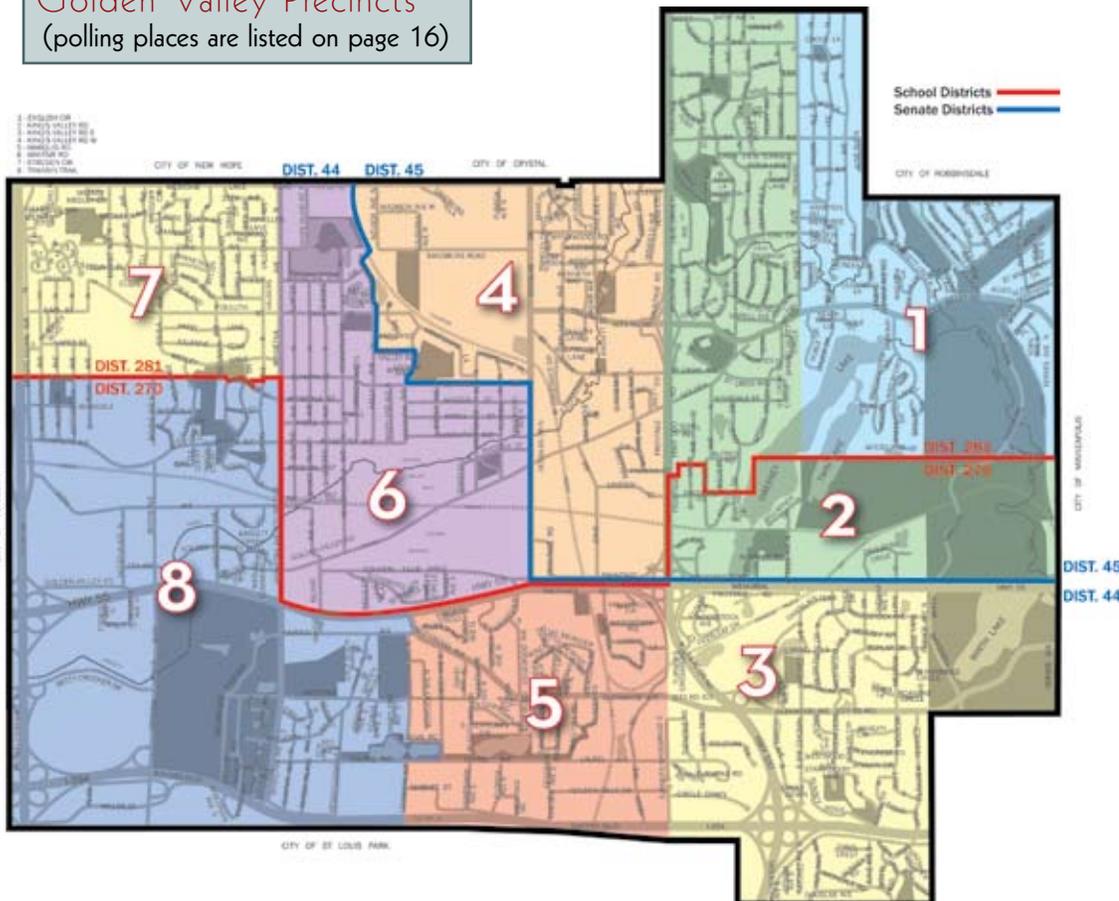
- Minnesota driver's license, learner's permit, identification card, or receipt for one, with your current address
- Minnesota Tribal ID
- recent utility bill\* with your current address (if your Minnesota license, Tribal ID, or MN State ID has a former address)
- "Notice of Late Registration" letter
- US passport with utility bill\*
- US military photo ID card with utility bill\*
- prior registration listed on roster at former address in precinct
- oath of a registered voter in precinct ("vouching")

Students can use:

- student ID, registration, or fee statement with your current address
- student photo ID with utility bill\*
- student ID if you are on a student housing list on file at the polling place
- someone who is registered in the precinct where you live who will vouch for your residence

\*Note: The utility bill must have your name, current address, and be due within 30 days of the election. Utility bills may be for electric, gas, water, solid waste, sewer, telephone, or cable TV.

Golden Valley Precincts  
(polling places are listed on page 16)



## Voting Locations

For the Nov 4 general election, you must vote in your own precinct between 7 am and 8 pm.

-  **Precinct 1**  
NE Fire Station  
3700 Golden Valley Road
-  **Precinct 2**  
Valley Presbyterian Church  
3100 North Lilac Drive
-  **Precinct 3**  
Meadowbrook School  
5430 Glenwood Avenue
-  **Precinct 4 (new location)**  
LOGIS  
5750 Duluth St
-  **Precinct 5**  
SE Fire Station  
400 Turners Crossroad South
-  **Precinct 6**  
Golden Valley City Hall  
7800 Golden Valley Road
-  **Precinct 7**  
Christian Life Center  
8025 Medicine Lake Road
-  **Precinct 8**  
Brookview Community Center  
200 Brookview Parkway

## City Revises I/I Ordinance

Several years ago, the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) identified Golden Valley as one of several cities contributing excess flow to the regional sanitary sewer system. MCES directed the cities to reduce the flow to acceptable levels and instituted a financial surcharge until the goals were met. The source of the excess flow is inflow and infiltration (I/I) of clear water into the sanitary sewer system.



In an effort to reduce I/I, the City inspects homes and businesses to determine if roof drains, foundation drains, sump pumps, and other clear water sources are connected to the sanitary sewer system. Inspections include a televised observation of the sanitary sewer service. Properties that pass inspection are issued certificates of compliance. Properties that don't pass must be made compliant before the property can be sold or transferred.

In August, the Golden Valley City Council revised the City's I/I inspection ordinance to:

- permit licensed plumbers to inspect sanitary sewer services for I/I compliance (plumbers who do inspections must be pre-approved by the City and must submit inspection results to the City for review)
- establish fees for City review of the video record completed by a private licensed plumber (\$100 for residential and \$375 for non-residential)
- require property owners who disconnect illegally connected foundation drains to provide a sump basket and pump that is discharged outside of the building structure to prevent damage to the building foundation

For more information, visit [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us), and click on the green I/I button. 

City of  
**Golden Valley**

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

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

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MAYOR/COUNCIL MSG LINE | 763-593-8001

CITY MANAGER | THOMAS BURT

EDITOR | CHERYL WEILER

ASSISTANT EDITOR | BEN SANDELL

GRAPHIC DESIGNER | KRISTI BUCHER



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**

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Golden Valley, MN 55427

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