

Golden Valley

MAY JUNE
2009

CITYNEWS

City Plans For Budget Challenges

Today's economic climate presents challenges and concerns for individuals and communities alike. When faced with decisions to cut costs and conserve funds, the City of Golden Valley is no different from residents or businesses—revenues, interest earnings, and market values are down, yet fixed costs are increasing. And projected budget shortfalls at the State of Minnesota could mean even less revenue for the City to meet its needs this year and next.

In response, City staff is preparing a two-year budget for City Council consideration that includes immediate cost-cutting initiatives as well as long-term planning measures to sustain financial wellness. For aging communities like Golden Valley, financial wellness also means reinvesting in community assets and infrastructure.

Proposals for cost savings in 2010 include a wage freeze for City staff and delayed hiring for many open positions, delayed capital and equipment purchases, and refinancing debt at lower rates. The City will continue its money-saving partnerships with other cities and use of gas consortiums and group purchasing.

This year, the City will lose its market value homestead credit, a \$325,000 revenue source to balance the 2009 budget. That money will be used by the State to help balance its budget. To offset the losses, the City has not filled some open staff positions, froze wages for seasonal employees, and put off all but the most necessary capital and equipment purchases (eg, fixing leaky roofs, repairing crumbling building mortar, etc).

Long term, the City will consider extending its Pavement Management Program (PMP), which has been rebuilding the City's aging street system. The PMP is scheduled to be completed in 2014, but its current debt load and impact on the taxpayer will be evaluated as the program progresses.

(Budget Challenges continued on page 2)



Concerts in the Park

Enjoy free concerts in Brookview Park with family, friends, and neighbors most Monday evenings (*note different day) beginning at 7 pm at the large picnic shelter. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs and pack a picnic, or purchase food and beverages from the Brookview Golf Grill. Concerts will take place inside the picnic shelter during light rain and will be canceled in the event of severe weather.

2009 Concert Schedule

- June 15 - Golden Valley Orchestra
- June 18* (Thurs) - Robbinsdale City Band
- June 22 - Jeff Brooks
- June 29 - Stompin' Dixie
- July 6 - Medicine Show Music Co
- July 13 - Calhoun Isles Community Band
- July 20 - Tubby Esquire
Bridge Builders Ice Cream Social
- July 27 - Nuance Plus
- August 3 - Tricia & The Toonies
- August 10 - Gypsy Mania Quartet
- August 17 - Celebration Brass

For more information, call 763-512-2345.

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BUDGET CHALLENGES

(continued from page 1)

Seventy-six percent of the City's annual operating budget comes from property tax revenue. The rest comes from fees for services. The City does not get any Local Government Aid, and it is required by state law to contribute a portion of its commercial/industrial tax base to the fiscal disparities pool (money distributed to other communities in the seven county metro area).

Although Golden Valley has seen less significant decreases in property values than much of the rest of the state, such decreases don't always mean decreased taxes. This is because City service levels don't fluctuate with property values. Roads still need to be plowed and police still need to protect the community. However, the City will continue to evaluate all services to help reduce the impact on property owners.

Everybody Counts! Census 2010

The next census count will begin April 1, 2010, and finish Jan 1, 2011.

Accurate population data is critical for many reasons, including the allotment of congressional seats in the US House of Representatives. The Hennepin County Complete Count Committee has been formed to address this issue locally. The committee will help to identify innovative ways in which the US Census Bureau can reach out to local governments.

To further help the US Census Bureau, the City of Golden Valley has formed its own Complete Count Committee. The group will meet several times before April 1, 2010, to ensure that every possible measure is being taken to ensure an accurate population count.

In the coming months, the group will also have the opportunity to meet with officials from Hennepin County, the State of Minnesota, and US Census Bureau to discuss innovative strategies to reach our residents. For more information about the the Committee, call City Planner Joe Hogeboom at 763-593-8099. For more information on the Census, visit the US Census Bureau website at 2010.census.gov.

Water Conservation: The Time Is Now

Americans use a lot of tap water—approximately 40 billion gallons each day for drinking, cooking, cleaning, and other uses, estimates the American Water Works Association (AWWA). Recurring drought has affected large portions of the United States in recent years, and many AWWA experts predict that at least 36 states will face water shortages within the next five years.

The 2008 AWWA State of the Industry Report identified source water supply and protection as its top area of concern. Some areas are investing in such new technologies as water reuse and desalination of ocean and brackish water. Water utilities are stressing investment in infrastructure and encouraging water efficient devices. However, everyone's help is needed to conserve what is fast becoming, in some areas in particular, a precious commodity. Use the tips below (courtesy of AWWA and Water Use It Wisely) to get started, and check your water meter and bill to track your usage.

Water Conservation Tips

Indoor Tips

Don't run water while brushing your teeth and save 4 gallons a minute, or 200 gallons a week for a family of four.

Run the dishwasher and clothes washer fully loaded and you could save 1,000 gallons a month.

Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Compost instead and save gallons.

Repair dripping faucets, which can waste up to 2,000 gallons a year, and leaky toilets, which can waste as much as 200 gallons a day.

If your shower can fill a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, replace it with a water-efficient showerhead and save up to 750 gallons a month.

Install low-volume toilets.

Install water-efficient appliances in your home. Look for the EPA WaterSense labels, and check if your local water system offers rebates.

Water houseplants with water collected from rinsing produce, dehumidifiers, or accidentally dropped ice cubes.

When you give your pet fresh water, throw the old water on plants, trees, or shrubs.

Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap. This way, every drop goes down you and not the drain.

Outdoor Tips

Reduce the amount of grass in your yard by planting shrubs and ground cover with rock and granite mulching. Consider native or drought-resistant plants that don't require much water.

Use a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and save hundreds of gallons a year.

Don't over-water, and water early in the morning or at night to avoid excess evaporation. Install a rain shut-off device on automatic sprinklers to eliminate unnecessary watering.

Make sure your sprinkler system waters only your lawn and not the house, sidewalk, or street.

Buy a rain gauge to track the irrigation your yard receives. Ask your local water agency how much rain is needed to skip an irrigation cycle.

Use a broom instead of a hose to clean the driveway or sidewalk and save up to 80 gallons each time.

Install covers on pools and spas to cut water loss by evaporation by 90 percent.

Place rain barrels beneath downspouts. Use the water for outdoor plants and trees or to wash a car.

Help preserve water quality—don't over-use pesticides and fertilizers, and dispose of hazardous materials properly.

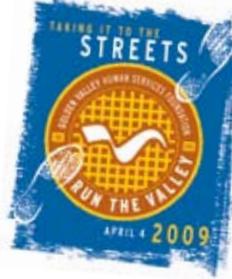
Run The Valley Brings In \$15,357 For GVHSF

The 15th annual *Run the Valley* 5/10K Run and 5K Walk drew 500 runners and walkers April 4 to compete for medals and raise funds for the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF). The event raised \$15,357 for the GVHSF, which allocates the funds to local human service organizations that benefit the community.

In the 10K, the top three male finishers were Justin Goetz, Berkley, MI (38:05); John Grimes, Minneapolis (38:15); and Aidan Palmer, Minnetonka (38:38). The top three female finishers were Susie Emond, Minneapolis (36:31); Leslie Semler, Duluth (40:54); and Kortney Haag, New Hope (41:44).

In the 5K, the top three male finishers were Matt Schadow, Minnetonka (16:46); Eric Kaitala, Duluth (17:30); and Peter Tollefson, Minneapolis (17:58). The top three female finishers were Donna Melody, Plymouth (22:33); April Moritz, Golden Valley (23:06); and Lib Larson, Waverly (23:50).

Participants received *Run The Valley* T-shirts, and medallions were awarded to the top finisher in each age group. Corporate sponsors included Liberty Carton, BNC National Bank, Morrie's Cadillac and Saab, and Cable 12. Other sponsors included Byerly's Golden Valley, City of Golden Valley, Einstein Bros Bagels, Golden Valley Rotary Club, Great Glacier Water, Old Fashion Donut Shoppe, Perkins Family Restaurant, Valley Pastries, and Yoplait USA. Sponsors supplied T-shirts, food, and water for the event. The GVHSF thanks all who participated.



Golden Valley Cemetery Offers City History, Plots

If you're curious about Golden Valley's past, the Golden Valley Cemetery offers a glimpse or two. If you're scouting a final resting place, those abound as well.

Located at the corner of Medicine Lake Road and Winnetka Ave, the cemetery has graves dating back to 1869, when 25-year-old Caroline Bies was buried. There are several Civil War and World War I veterans buried there, as well as some of the earliest settlers of this area.

When the Mutual Cemetery Association of Golden Valley disbanded in 1991, by law the cemetery's management switched over to local government.

The City of Golden Valley acquired the small cemetery in 1992. Since then, it has been in charge of landscaping and plot sales.

Several plots are available at \$500 each. Fees for traditional burial are \$750, and fees for a cremation burial are \$250. For more information or to buy a plot, call City Hall at 763-593-8095.

A Tradition Of Community Support

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 *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 monies collected in the City.

For 2009, the GVHSF allocated \$42,000 to nine local human service organizations: Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery (\$10,000), Senior Community Services HOME Program (\$6,000), The Bridge for Youth (\$5,000), Tree House (\$5,000), Suburban Northwest Dinner at Your Door (\$5,000), Crisis Connection (\$3,000), Senior Community Services Outreach (\$3,000), Home Free (\$2,500), and Community Mediation Services, Inc (\$2,500).

The next GVHSF fundraiser is the Sept 18 Golf Classic. Watch the City Web site and *CityNews* for updates or contact Jeanne Fackler at 763-512-2340.



It's UGH Time

Hennepin County and the City of St Louis Park are teaming up to give residents a chance to get rid of UGH—"Unwanted Garden and Household" chemicals and waste—at a free, annual household hazardous waste collection:

Thurs, June 11–Sat, June 13
9 am–4 pm

Louisiana Oaks Park, South Parking Lot
3500 Louisiana Ave, St Louis Park
(Hwy 7 to Louisiana Ave, north on Louisiana to Walker St, west on Walker)

Accepted Materials*

- auto wastes (batteries, starter fluid, etc)
- cleaning solvents, adhesives, aerosols
- consumer electronics (computers, TVs, etc)
- corrosives, drain cleaners
- driveway sealers
- flammable liquids
- fluorescent and HID lamps
- fuels (gasoline, kerosene, diesel)
- household batteries
- paints, paint thinners and solvents
- pesticides (insecticides, herbicides, etc)
- photographic and hobby chemicals
- pool chemicals
- rechargeable appliances
- wood preservatives



*Not a complete list. Call 612-348-3777 for more information.

Not Accepted:

Any waste from businesses, appliances*, asbestos and construction debris, compressed gas cylinders and tanks, explosives, garbage, medical or infectious wastes, motor oil and oil filters, radioactive waste (eg, smoke detectors), tires*, and yard waste.

*Accepted at permanent drop-off sites.

Hennepin County's two permanent household hazardous waste drop-off sites (8100 Jefferson Hwy, Brooklyn Park and 1400 W 96th St, Bloomington) accept UGH year-round. For more information, call Hennepin County's 24-Hour Info-Line at 612-348-6500.

Composting Etiquette 101

Composting significantly reduces unnecessary contributions to landfills and is a great "green" activity—but only if you do it properly. Golden Valley's compost ordinance guides residents in correct composting procedures so they can avoid public nuisances.

COMPOSTING DOS AND DON'TS

DO compost yard waste, straw, fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, or egg shells generated from the site on which the compost is located. You may add commercially available ingredients specifically designed to speed or enhance decomposition.

DON'T compost woody yard waste, meat, bones, fat, oil, whole eggs, dairy products, unshredded branches or logs, weeds heavily laden with seeds, plastics, synthetic fibers, human or pet wastes, diseased plants, or any other garbage or refuse. Some of these items spread disease, are hazardous waste, and create fire hazards.



photo by L.E. MacDonald



STRUCTURE, LOCATION, MANAGEMENT

Materials must be contained in a bin that may be constructed of wood, wire mesh, or a combination of wood and wire, or in commercially fabricated compost bins. Only one structure is allowed per lot. The structure must not exceed 500 cubic feet (for example, 10' x 10' x 5') in volume. Maximum height is five feet.

Compost structures must be placed in the rear yard of the property at least 10 feet from the property line (35 feet if property line is also a street line) and no closer than 40 feet to any habitable building other than the resident's home.

Residents are required to use standard compost practices, which include providing adequate air circulation to prevent combustion and objectionable odors to adjacent properties. Composting that creates bad odors or includes prohibited material is considered a public health nuisance.

Composting Tips

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

1. **Free Space.** To keep the compost from compacting, add materials like straw, woods chips, grass clippings, etc.
2. **Water.** Add enough water so the compost is damp but not soggy.
3. **Small Bites.** Keep plant material two inches in size or less. Larger pieces compost slowly.
4. **Food (or nutrients).** Compost breakdown is affected by the carbon-nitrogen ratio (30 parts carbon to one part nitrogen).
5. **Turning.** Mixing a compost once or twice a month allows it to reach higher temperatures, decompose faster, and have less odor.

For more information, go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/composting.htm.

Golden Valley Recycles

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

Holiday Schedule

<u>Holiday Week</u>	<u>Pick-Up Date</u>
July 4	Fri, July 3
Labor Day	Sat, Sept 5
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 28
Christmas	Sat, Dec 26
New Year's '10	Sat, Jan 2
Memorial Day '10	Sat, May 29

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.

Do Your Part To Remove Invasive Buckthorn

While spring in Golden Valley brings melting snow and warmer days, it also, unfortunately, signals the return of buckthorn.

Buckthorn is an invasive plant brought to America from Europe in the mid-1800s for use as an ornamental hedge. It flourished and became a nuisance shrub, forming dense pockets that choked out native plant species. This destruction also negatively affected nesting habitats for Minnesota birds.



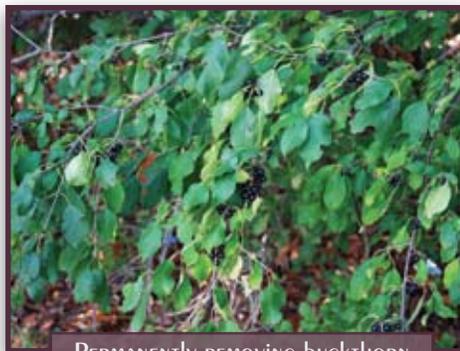
EVERYONE CAN HELP

Although it is illegal to sell or transport buckthorn in Minnesota, it is pervasive in nearly every county and found throughout Golden Valley. The City has several initiatives designed to eradicate the plant, but it can't do it without help from residents. The first step to removing buckthorn is identifying it.

Buckthorn can grow up to 25 feet tall, has glossy, oval-shaped leaves with clusters of small, round red or greenish-black berries, and is easiest to spot in late fall because it keeps its green leaves longer than native plants.

Permanently removing a buckthorn patch is difficult and can take up to five years. First, the bushes must be removed. Small bushes can be pulled out by hand. Large plants can be cut down and the stumps treated with a standard herbicide. Or, use a weed wrench to remove larger plants, which will help avoid the need to treat leftover stumps. The City has weed wrenches available for residents to use free of charge.

After initial removal, the site must be frequently monitored. Remove new buckthorn plants as they appear. Only after three or four years of treating a site can non-invasive species be replanted to replace the buckthorn, although native plants may return when buckthorn has been removed.



PERMANENTLY REMOVING BUCKTHORN CAN TAKE UP TO FIVE YEARS.

photo by Cody Hough

VOLUNTEER TO GET RID OF BUCKTHORN AROUND THE COMMUNITY

To combat buckthorn and other invasive plants in the community, the City Council approved ordinance changes in 2005 to allow volunteers to work on public land (upon approval by the Public Works Department) and allotted funding for supplies, brush removal, and insurance. City staff then assembled a kit, including tools such as weed wrenches, to help volunteers who want to work in natural areas around Golden Valley.

The program is available annually, and **interested residents are encouraged to contact the City (763-593-3976) for an application folder.** The application folder includes forms and sign-up sheets for volunteers, education on buckthorn identification (with photos), and helpful suggestions for removal and use of tools. More details about buckthorn, including pictures of the plant, a map of affected areas in Golden Valley, and information on the volunteer program and borrowing weed wrenches, can be found online at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/Buckthorn.htm.

Ryan Chandlee, Environmental Commission

Emerald Ash Borer Is Here

On May 14, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) announced the discovery of an emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation in St Paul just northeast of the I-94/Hwy 280 intersection. It is the first detection of the destructive tree pest in Minnesota, and on May 15 the MDA implemented a quarantine on firewood and certain ash products and material for Ramsey and Hennepin counties.

EAB is an invasive beetle that attacks and kills ash trees. Its larvae kill ash trees by tunneling into the wood and feeding on the tree's nutrients. Since its accidental introduction into North America, EAB has killed millions of ash trees in 10 eastern states. With an estimated 900 million ash trees, Minnesota is a prime target for EAB. Earlier this year, MDA issued a quarantine for Houston County in response to an EAB infestation across the border in Wisconsin.

photo by Elizabeth Park



The metallic-green adult beetles are a half inch long and are active from May to September. Signs of EAB infestation include one-eighth-inch diameter D-shaped exit holes in ash tree bark and serpentine tunnels packed with sawdust under the bark. While EAB spreads slowly on its own, it can hitch a ride to new areas when people transport firewood or other wood products infested with larvae. Officials recommend the following steps to keep EAB from spreading:

- Don't transport firewood, even within Minnesota. Don't bring firewood along on a camping trip. Buy the wood you need locally from an approved vendor. Don't bring extra wood home with you.
- Don't buy or move firewood from outside your area. If someone comes to your door selling firewood, ask them about the source of the wood.
- Watch for signs of infestation in your ash trees. If you suspect an infestation, visit www.mda.state.mn.us/invasives/eab and use the "Do I Have Emerald Ash Borer?" checklist.

Recreation OPPORTUNITIES

See a complete list of recreation opportunities in the Spring/Summer Recreation Activities Brochure or at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/parks/prprograms.htm. Register in person, by mail, by fax, or online.

SUMMER PARK PROGRAMS

Bike Rangers • Catch, Kick & Throw • Chess Club • Fishing Club • Flag Football • Ultimate Frisbee Camp • Hiking & Biking Club • Jump Rope • Kick Ball • Kids Korner • Little Critters • Little Tikes • Park Baseball • Pens, Pencils, Markers & More • Pitch By Coach • Playgrounds (Morning & Afternoon) • Sand Volleyball • Soccer Skills Camp • Summer Survivor • T-Ball

PARK SPECIAL EVENTS

- **Puppet Shows**—Tues & Thurs, various parks and times
- **Water Days**—June 19 & July 10, 12:30–2:15 pm, Scheid Park
- **Penny Carnival**—July 24, 10:30 am, Brookview
- **Picnic & Music In The Park**—July 28, 11:15 am, Brookview

PLAYGROUND FIELD TRIPS

- **Brunswick Bowl**—June 12
- **Cascade Bay Water Park**—June 26
- **Bunker Beach Water Park**—July 17

SkyHawks CAMPS

Basketball • Flag Football • Mini-Hawk • SNAG Golf • Soccer • Volleyball

TENNIS CAMPS

Weekly, June 8–Aug 21, Brookview and Schied Parks

GENERAL PROGRAMS

Art Classes • Balloon Workshop • Cheer America • Drama Club • Magic & More • Music, Mom/Dad & Me • Preschool Mini Music Camp

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

City's Youth Programs And Camps Offer Variety



There's no doubt Golden Valley's youth recreation programs have been a hit among parents and children. To some, the programs are what make this a stand-out community, says Brian Erickson, recreation supervisor.

"Some of it even introduces kids to activities they might never have participated in," Erickson says. "They're fun-based activities, rather than competitive-based. So it's a comfortable setting. You don't have to be a soccer all-star to have fun in soccer camp."

Golden Valley's park and recreation programs give kids from different schools and different backgrounds, kids who might not otherwise hang out, a chance to get to know each other in a community setting, which helps create and reinforce relationships across neighborhoods, Erickson says.

"They're fun-based activities, rather than competitive-based... You don't have to be a soccer all-star to have fun in soccer camp."

Debbie Fitzsimmons, a parent of four, agrees.

"The programs have helped my kids meet other kids they wouldn't have otherwise," she says. "My kids go to Noble Elementary, and through these programs they met a lot of kids from Meadowbrook."

Fitzsimmons says if it weren't for City park programs, her kids would be sitting in front of the television a whole lot more.

A look at the City's Spring/Summer Recreation Activities Brochure indicates a variety of choices for the summer, such as Jewelry Making, Explorers Hiking and Biking Club, Drama Club, Soccer Skills Camp, and Ultimate Frisbee Camp, to name a few.

"We select the kinds of programs we offer for different reasons," Erickson says. "We look at trends and listen to participants on their likes and dislikes." And because of the relatively low cost to participate in City recreation programs, no one is left out, he adds.

Erickson points out that registration for these programs hasn't dipped in several years.

"Maybe in this economy people are putting more money into things closer to home," he speculates. "We're a pretty good deal when you look at the range of things people can spend their money on."

To guarantee a spot in any of the programs, register early, Erickson says.

It's worth it, says Fitzsimmons. Her 6-year-old and her 10-year-old triplets have been active in the programs for five years, participating in soccer, basketball, chess classes, and guitar lessons.

"I would recommend these programs wholeheartedly," she says. "It's a really great thing to take advantage of."

For more on upcoming recreation programs and for contact information, see the Recreation Opportunities sidebar at left, or visit <http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/> and click on Parks, Recreation & Leisure. 

Bridge Builders Helps Bring People, Projects Together

Several years ago, as part of *Envision Golden Valley*, citizens got together with ideas to develop a vision for the community's future. After hundreds of residents responded, the City initiated a community support program to continue the momentum and help turn citizen ideas into reality.

Today, the Envision Connection Project and Golden Valley Bridge Builders help individuals or groups to regularly connect with others in the community who share similar interests. Starting with ideas from *Envision Golden Valley*, Bridge Builders planted seeds for several initiatives that are blossoming today, such as the annual community ice cream social, the lilac planting party along Hwy 55, and a new effort to bring a dog park to Golden Valley.



BETSY AUTH TALKS ABOUT A DOG PARK PROJECT AT A RECENT BRIDGE BUILDERS MEETING.

Annie Cleveland, who moved to Golden Valley five years ago, attended one of those *Envision* meetings and shared her idea of bringing a dog park to the City. The idea interested several other meeting attendees, and last September those people asked Cleveland to spearhead the project. She is now looking for possible funding sources and park locations. The location, she says, needs to be at least two acres, have adequate parking, be far enough away from other residents so as not to disturb them, and take advantage of underused land. The funding, she adds, has to come from non-taxpayer sources.



Thanks to Bridge Builders, Cleveland already has a half-dozen volunteers working with her to make the Golden Valley dog park a reality someday.

"A dog park is not only good for the dogs," Cleveland says. "It's a great community builder, a great way for residents to meet and get to know each other."

Bridge Builders helped build support for the

project and "provides an easier way to deliver a message to key people and get them on board," Cleveland says.

Bridge Builders can do the same for you, and your ideas.

The next Bridge Builders meeting will be June 13, 10 am—noon, at the Animal Humane Society in Golden Valley (see box). Residents will get together to talk about their ideas for community projects and ways to support existing efforts. Everyone is invited.

Anyone can be a Golden Valley Bridge Builder. To learn more, contact Assistant City Manager Jeanne Andre at jandre@ci.golden-valley.mn.us or 763-593-8014.

For more information or to get involved in the Bridge Builder dog park project, e-mail Annie Cleveland at fritz_annie@msn.com.

SENIOR Stuff

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

INTERMEDIATE BRIDGE LESSONS

Have basic knowledge of the game? Sharpen your skills with lessons. Fridays, June 5—July 31 (no class July 3), 9—10:30 am, \$29

Oils And Acrylics With Judy

Small classes, individual help. Students bring all supplies. Mondays through Dec 14 (no class Sept 7), 9:30—11:30 am, \$38/6-class punch pass

DEFENSIVE DRIVING

- **4-Hour Refresher Course**—June 11, July 9, and Aug 13, 9 am—1 pm, \$17

Register by sending a check to Minnesota Safety Council, 474 Concordia Ave, St Paul, MN, 55103.

MONEY MATTERS

- June 18: "Take Control of Your Retirement Income"
 - July 16: "New Mortgage Options"
- Both 10—11 am.

FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

June 24 and July 22, 11—11:30 am.

COFFEE TALK

- June 24: Author and National Speaker Chuck Tindell
- July 22: "Buttons, Buttons, and More Buttons"

Both at 9:45 am, \$2 payable at door. Please register at least one day in advance.

LIVING WISE AND WELL

- July 2: "Arthritis, Weather, and Medications"
 - Aug 6: "Home Health Care 101"
- Both at 1 pm, 7600 Golden Valley Rd.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DONATION

Support your senior program and receive the newsletter by mail. \$5.

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

Golden Valley Bridge Builders

Information Meeting

Saturday, June 13

10 am — noon

Animal Human Society

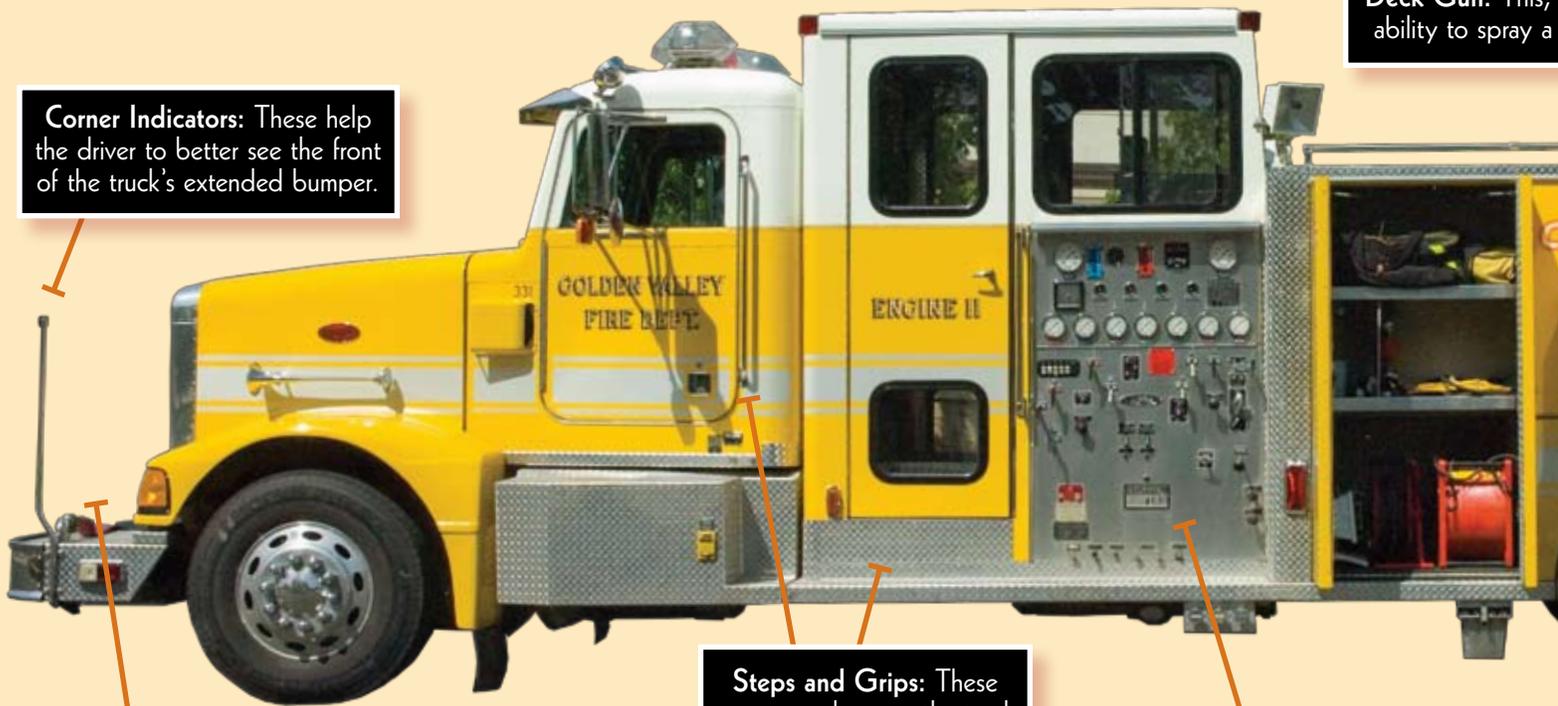
845 Meadow Lane N

Call 763-593-8014 for information.

Anatomy Of A Fire Engine

When called upon, firefighters must be ready for anything—house and building fires, grass fires, car fires, car accidents, gas leaks, chemical spills—and they must have the exact tools they need at any given time.

That's where the fire engine comes in. The fire engine, of which Golden Valley has four, is a self-contained apparatus, meaning it can function without any other resources. It has a generator that can power flood lights. It has a tank filled with 500 gallons of water. And it houses all the equipment and hoses firefighters need



Corner Indicators: These help the driver to better see the front of the truck's extended bumper.

Deck Gun: This, ability to spray a

Bumper Line: A small hose is stored in the bumper and used for car and garbage fires.

Steps and Grips: These are everywhere on the truck to allow firefighters to move quickly about the vehicle without getting hurt.

Inside The Truck

Inside the engine are radio systems, flashlights, thermal imaging cameras, and four air tanks with 40 minutes of air each. The air tanks are placed on the seats in order to be strapped on quickly by firefighters while seated.



ne



to do their job effectively. The engine is a complex machine, and it takes several years of training to learn how to properly run it, says Stephen Baker, fire education specialist. The following is a brief look at Golden Valley's Engine 11, and what it provides the City's firefighters.

also known as a deluge, is the most powerful hose on the truck, with the maximum of 1,000 gallons per minute into third- and fourth-floor areas.



Flood Lights

Tool Compartments: These hold axes, Haligans, ventilator fans, fire extinguishers, cutters, nozzles and a variety of other tools used in common firefighter situations.

Aerial And Rescue

In addition to the engine, firefighters also use aerial and rescue trucks. The aerial truck is equipped with a 105-foot ladder topped with a 1,000-gallon-per-minute master stream hose. Aerial trucks are generally used for commercial fires. The rescue trucks come equipped with emergency medical devices that can be used if an ambulance is not yet on the scene.



Back

The back of the fire truck contains the bulk of the hoses, including the large-diameter hose that acts as an above-ground water main from a hydrant to the truck. There are also the skid load and blitz lines. The blitz line requires two to three operators and is used outside a building. The skid load is smaller and can be dragged inside with a firefighter. The back of the truck also holds three ladders of varied heights.



Pump Panel

The most complicated part of the engine is the pump panel, which controls the flow and pressure of the half dozen hoses firefighters may use at any given time. For example, if firefighters are using the deck gun at 360 gallons a minute, they have less than two minutes to switch from a self-contained 500 gallon tank to a hydrant flow, and the pump panel operator must be ready to switch off one and turn on the other at just the right moment as to never lose a constant stream. Controlling the pump panel efficiently takes years of practice to master, Baker says.





NIGHT to UNITE!

Neighbors Joining Together

Golden Valley neighborhoods are invited to join cities throughout Minnesota Tuesday, August 4 for the second annual Night to Unite.

The Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) has a long tradition of crime prevention and believes that effective crime prevention strategies begin with strong neighborhood and police partnerships. Minnesota's Night to Unite (MNTU) will celebrate these partnerships in preventing crime.

Get together for a potluck dinner, ice cream social, barbecue, bike parade, etc. Use your imagination and plan something fun! The GVPD and Crime Prevention Fund will provide raffle kits to neighborhoods that register their MNTU celebration, so kids and adults can enter the citywide raffle for great prizes!

MNTU planning kits will be mailed to Neighborhood Watch block captains in June and are also available on the City Web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/publicsafety/mnnighttounite.htm.

For more information, contact the Police Department at 763-593-8079.

*Golden Valley
DMV Open July 3*

8 am—noon

Perfect day to come in and apply for a passport, renew your vehicle registration tabs, buy a fishing license, and more!

763-593-8111



This Mobile Command Communications Center was purchased jointly by the Cities of Golden Valley and St. Louis Park.

Command One Truck Ready To Go If Needed

In a joint powers agreement, Golden Valley and St. Louis Park teamed up a year and a half ago to purchase a mobile command communication center, or "Command One" vehicle, to respond to severe emergencies or major crime scenes.

"It's kind of like insurance," says Golden Valley Police Commander Nate Gove. "You hope you never have to use it, but if you need it, you're glad it's there."

Hostage situations, large structure fires, scenes of disaster—these scenarios require more than just a few squad cars or fire trucks. Command One allows firefighters and police to set up a communications post on the scene, allowing for a coordinated emergency services response.

Video cameras perched atop the truck record and survey the area while a video feed runs to a television inside the vehicle. Inside the 32-foot-long truck are smart boards and laptops for strategy development and mapping. A fax machine and two rooms for phone and satellite communications allow for a mobile dispatch center. This comes in handy for special events or if that dispatch center is knocked out by a storm. Command One has its own power generator.

"It's a place for commanders or chiefs to make tactical decisions on whatever it is we're facing on the scene," says Stephen Baker, Golden Valley fire education specialist and SWAT team medic.

A SWAT (special weapons and tactics) team is an elite tactical unit trained to perform high-risk police operations such as high-risk search warrants, engaging barricaded suspects and heavily-armed criminals, hostage rescue, and more. "Command One is a vital tool in those moments," Gove says. "It's an important addition to Golden Valley and St. Louis Park police and fire departments that's ready to go when the situation calls for it."



INTERIOR VIEWS OF
COMMAND ONE.

Firefighters Have Best Of Both Worlds

Sarah Auel decided to join the Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) after seeing articles in *CityNews* and promotional images on the fire trucks, fulfilling a desire she had since childhood.

What had held her back was the fear she wouldn't be able to balance her career as a sales representative with the duties of being a firefighter. "I didn't know I could have both," Auel says. "Now I feel like I have two of the best jobs. I could not be happier." And it hasn't interfered with her volunteer work with the Special Olympics.

Auel joined the GVFD less than a year ago. She says the training is extensive and challenging, but with every new thing she does and learns, she's enticed to do and learn more. "You get to be part of this group, this team, to be a member of society in a different way," she says. "People look up to what we're doing. It's so rewarding."

Join Up

Joining the Golden Valley Fire Department is a real skills-driven commitment that will leave you prepared to face any number of unique challenges, both as a firefighter and a citizen, says Stephen Baker, fire education specialist.

Information Meetings

Thurs, July 9 | **Thurs, Aug 20**
6:30 pm | 9:30 am & 6:30 pm

Fire Station 1, 7800 Golden Valley Rd

First-year firefighters attend two to three nights of training per week, for 225 hours of training in the first six months. They'll come away with new or refined skills in search and rescue, CPR, hazmat management, traumatic stabilization, shock management, critical thinking under pressure, emergency vehicle driving, and of course, fire fighting.

The GVFD is seeking men and women to join its long tradition of community service by becoming paid, on-call firefighters. There are two ways to serve. If you live within six minutes of a Golden Valley fire station, apply to become a night-time/weekend responder. If you live in another community but work in Golden Valley, check out Corporate Call, a collaboration with local businesses to recruit daytime responders (available Monday-Friday, 6 am-6 pm).

Information meetings for new firefighters will be held in July and August (see box). Learn more at goldenvalleyfire.com or call 763-593-8057.

Fire And Police Open House

Wednesday, June 17
6-8 pm

Fire Station 1 & Police Department
7800 Golden Valley Rd

Fire Station 2
400 Turners Crossroad

Fire Station 3
3700 Golden Valley Rd

Featuring Fire and Police Station tours, fire truck rides, McGruff

the Crime Dog, Sparky the Fire Dog, free T-shirts*, police squad car, Old Number One fire truck, live fire demo, Squirt House, Fatal Vision display, blood pressure checks by North Memorial, door prizes*, and more.

*while supplies last



HANDS ON FUN!

Street Dance

Saturday,
June 20
4 pm-
midnight



Chester Bird American Legion
Hwy 100 & Glenwood Ave

- Family activities (dunk tank, tug-of-war, kids drawing for a family dinner at a GV Fire Station)
- Hotdogs, brats, roasted corn-on-the-cob, chips, popcorn, snow cones, pop
- 7 pm-midnight: *Doug and The Mooners*
- Fireworks at dusk

Sponsored by the Golden Valley Fire Relief Association. For more information, contact the Golden Valley Fire Department at 763-593-3977.

Sales Rep.
Ski Coach.
Firefighter.

Sarah
New Recruit, 2009



goldenvalleyfire.com

2009

Sealcoat Streets

Pennsylvania Ave S (Ridgeway Rd to I-394 Frontage Rd N)

I-394 Frontage Rd N (Winnetka Ave to Field Dr)

Garden Park (Western Ave to cul-de-sac)

Maryland Ave S (Western to cul-de-sac)

Nevada Ave S (Western to cul-de-sac)

Oregon Ave S (Western to cul-de-sac)

Louisiana Ave S (Harold Ave to Colonial Rd)

Kentucky Ave S (Louisiana to Colonial Rd)

Colonial Rd (Louisiana to Jersey Ave)

Sumter Ave S (Ewald Terr to I-394 Frontage Rd N)

Rhode Island Ave S (Western to I-394 Frontage Rd N)

Quebec Ave S (Western Ave to Ridgeway)

Quebec Ave S (Pennsylvania to Laurel)

Ewald Terr (Winnetka to Rhode Island)

Ridgeway Rd (Hanley Rd to Harold)

Half Moon S (Ridgeway to cul-de-sac)

Half Moon N (Ridgeway to cul-de-sac)

Half Moon Dr (Ridgeway to Ridgeway)

Western Ave (Brookview Pkwy to Jersey)

Western Terr (Western to cul-de-sac)

Hanley Rd (I-394 Frontage Rd N to Western)

Field Dr (I-394 Frontage Rd N to Hanley Rd)

Utah Ave S (Ridgeway Rd to I-394 Frontage Rd N)

Gregory Rd (Winnetka to Utah)

Brookview Pkwy (Winnetka to Western)

Wisconsin Ave S (I-394 Frontage Rd S to Vermont Ave S)

Vermont Ave S (Wisconsin to I-394 Frontage Rd S)

Laurel Ave (Winnetka to Pennsylvania)

Jersey Ave (Laurel to Glenwood)

Brookview Park Parking Lots

- North lot at tennis courts
- North lot at small shelter
- North and south lots at large shelter
- Main parking lot at Brookview Community Center (does not include upper parking lot but does include both driveways into Brookview from Western Ave and I-394 Frontage Rd N)

Lions Park Parking Lots

- South lot off Western Ave
- North lot off Louisiana Ave

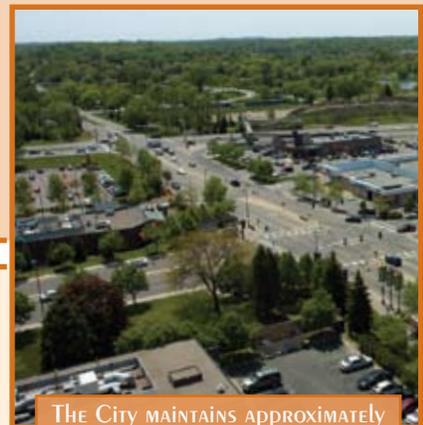
Maintenance Protects City's Investment In Streets

The City of Golden Valley protects its investment in streets and keeps residents safe with a scheduled street maintenance program. Sealcoating and overlays are two common maintenance practices. The City schedules sealcoating and overlays on a different section of streets each year. With proper maintenance, pavement replacement should be required after about 50 years.

SEALCOATING is one of the most common methods of preventive street maintenance and is done every seven or eight years. It's a surface treatment that seals and protects existing pavement and adds new life but does not add significant structural strength. Golden Valley uses a single surface treatment, which means a single application of liquid asphalt is sprayed on the existing surface, followed immediately by a single layer of aggregate (small pieces of rock). This type of treatment is excellent for wear and waterproofing, and it also improves skid resistance. The City hires a contractor to do the actual sealcoating, while City crews perform all preparatory work and sweeping. The contract calls for the project to be done sometime between the beginning of July and the middle of August (see list at left for 2009 sealcoat streets).

Here are a few things to expect during the sealcoating process:

- Streets will be well marked with signs and cones. Use alternate routes if possible.
- Drive slowly over the rock; don't spin your tires.
- Excess rocks will become bumpy and will be swept as soon as the new surface is ready to be exposed.
- Roads will be swept as necessary throughout the summer and early fall. It may take three or four times before all excess rock is picked up.



THE CITY MAINTAINS APPROXIMATELY 120 MILES OF STREETS.

Every 20 to 25 years, streets are **milled** and **OVERLAID** with a new two-inch layer of asphalt, which reshapes them and eliminates any settling or flaws that developed over the years. This summer the City will mill and overlay four sections of street:

- Xerxes Ave between Plymouth Ave and Wirth Pkwy (a cooperative project with the City of Minneapolis)
- I-394 Frontage Rd S from General Mills Blvd to the city limits at Texas Ave
- I-394 Frontage Rd S from the city limits just west of Hwy 100 to the Hwy 100 Frontage Rd E
- Hwy 100 Frontage Rd E/I-394 Frontage Rd S from Douglas Ave to France Ave
- Scott Ave N from West Bend Rd to Toledo Ave N
- Toledo from Duluth St to Minnaqua Dr

Other annual street maintenance includes street sweeping, striping, and sign repair. Every spring crews sweep streets clean of sand and debris left from winter driving, and every fall, after the majority of leaves have fallen, crews again sweep all streets curb to curb. This keeps gutters and storm sewers clear and free of blockages and helps protect the waterways from pollution. Public Works crews also continuously renew street striping and road signs to enhance public safety and maintain community standards.

Don't forget: drive slowly and be patient. Crews doing the road work appreciate your cooperation. If you have questions about work on a particular street, call Public Works Street Maintenance at 763-593-8082. If you have questions about the street maintenance program, call the Public Works Maintenance Manager at 763-593-3981.

Exploited Park Trash Cans Cost Taxpayers \$\$\$..

At any given time, the City of Golden Valley provides up to 200 trash cans in its parks. While the City appreciates anyone who uses these cans to toss park waste and cut down on litter, it would also like to remind everyone that the cans are for park use only.

Some people use trash cans in City parks to toss their household garbage, explains Ron Hammer, Golden Valley park maintenance supervisor. This raises disposal costs for all taxpayers and cheats people who use the cans responsibly.

Hammer says it takes maintenance staff about 20 hours a week to empty public trash cans during the busy time of the year (April–September). The cans are emptied three times a week, yielding about 36 cubic yards of trash, he adds. That's enough to fill a doubles tennis court 9 feet high with trash by the end of September, and it costs the City more than \$12,000 annually.

It's a necessary cost, says Hammer, except a look inside City park garbage cans on any particular day reveals extra trash dumped that should have been disposed of at home—or even recycled (see photos). And this does not include the City's costs for disposing of couches, water heaters, or other items left along streets or in nature areas (see sidebar at right).

"It's illegal to dump trash any place that's not a landfill, and it's illegal to dump household waste in public park trash cans," says Hammer. "How much would the City save without all this illegal dumping? And lately we've had requests to place even more public trash cans on street corners, just so people can dump dog waste. It all adds up."

To keep costs down for all taxpayers, throw household trash away in your own garbage can, use the City's recycling program, and take larger trash to proper disposal sites or use the City's annual Mighty Tidy Clean-Up Day, says Hammer. A list of licensed residential garbage haulers can be found at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/license.html. For a list of places to take other trash, go to www.hennepinatoz.org, or contact the City at 763-593-8030 to get a copy of the *Recyclopedia*. For more information, contact Golden Valley Park Maintenance at 763-593-8045. 🐾



DUMPING HOUSEHOLD TRASH IN PARK CANS THROWS MONEY AWAY.

...So Does Illegal Dumping

A secluded bit of woods just off the road or in the corner of a City park can sometimes turn into a hot spot for illegal dumping, a sporadic graveyard of old furniture, computers, tires, and trash. Illegal dumping ranges from yard maintenance contractors dumping debris on darkened city dead-ends to residents heaving bags of leaves into adjacent nature areas or leaving a chair or brush pile on the sidewalk in front of a home.

"They do it in the middle of the night, any place that's a little darker and a little less visible," says Lyle Johnson, Golden Valley's street maintenance supervisor. He believes people likely do it because it's convenient and to avoid paying waste disposal fees. "As soon as we hear about it, we pick it up."

Johnson says City maintenance crews are called out to clean up illegal dumping sites a couple of times per month. That makes illegal dumping a cost burden to the entire community.

Illegal dumping is a cost burden to the entire community.

Dumping in undesignated areas is not only a crime, but it also diverts land from more productive uses, depresses the value of surrounding land, and poses health, safety, and environmental threats*, such as:

- fire and explosion
- injury to children playing in or around the dump site
- disease carried by mosquitoes, flies, and rodents
- contamination of streams, rivers, and lakes
- contamination of soil and groundwater
- contamination of drinking water wells
- damage to plant and wildlife habitats
- decrease in the quality of life to nearby communities and residents
- spoiling the area's natural beauty

You can help cut down on illegal dumping by reporting it when you see it—call 911. Call Public Works at 763-593-8030 if you know about an illegal dumping site. For more information about keeping Golden Valley clean, go to ci.golden-valley.mn.us and click on "Environment." 🐾

*Source: Environmental Protection Agency

Be Respectful, Pick Up After Your Pet

It's a matter of etiquette and respect: If you're walking your dog and it poops on a lawn that's not your own, pick up after it. Then dispose of the waste in a garbage can. Ideally, pet waste should go in the pet owner's trash can, but if your pet poops in a public park, put the waste in the park trash can.

"That's better than leaving it on a street corner, which has become a reported nuisance," says Ron Hammer, Golden Valley park maintenance supervisor.

Golden Valley City ordinance requires pet owners to pick up every bit of waste their pet puts out and dispose of it properly. Just so the responsibility for this problem is not lost in the muck, here's the official "scoop":

"Owners shall not allow their dogs or cats to foul any lawn, garden, or other property. Dog owners are required to carry supplies for excrement removal when walking their dogs. Any mess made by a dog must be cleaned up (including in public parks)."

Cleaning up after your pet is just plain good community relations. (If you don't own a pet, keep in mind that it's not the animal's fault if its owner doesn't pick up after it.) If you have questions about City pet ordinances, contact the Golden Valley Police Department at 763-593-8079. 🐾

Metro Transit Bus Routes Change

Metro Transit has rolled out changes to northwest metro bus routes as part of the agency's plan to meet growing residential and employment needs, changing travel patterns, and new demographics.

Cities affected include Minneapolis, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Golden Valley, New Hope, Plymouth, and Robbinsdale.

Six routes will see major changes: 715, 716, 717, 755, 756, and 767. Other routes will have minor schedule changes. High-lights include:

- creation of new north-south Route 705, traveling primarily on Winnetka Ave in Brooklyn Park, Crystal, New Hope, and St Louis Park
- restructuring of service in the Winnetka Ave corridor, with more off-peak and reverse-commute service
- new connections between Winnetka Ave and Ridgedale Mall and between 42nd Ave and City of Plymouth Dial-A-Ride
- elimination of Route 715, with service replaced by Routes 705 and 717
- facility improvements at Starlite Transit Center
- simpler Saturday routing between Robbinsdale, Crystal, and Brooklyn Park
- **new service to the Wal-Mart Supercenter in Brooklyn Park**

Metro Transit officials took input from residents, business owners, and other stakeholders to get a fresh look at where and how often buses operated in the area.

Customers can call 612-373-3333 for route and schedule information, or view schedules at metrotransit.org/NWservice. Informational brochures are also available on buses that serve the northwest metro.

Metro Transit is a service of the Metropolitan Council. In 2008, customers boarded its buses and trains nearly 82 million times, the highest annual ridership in 27 years. 

715**716****717****755****756****767**

On The Trail: How To Be Safe And Courteous

The City of Golden Valley is committed to providing its residents with plenty of space to enjoy outdoor activities. Of its 10.5 square miles, 15 percent is dedicated to parks and open space, and there are almost 47 miles of trails and sidewalks. Along with maintaining all of this, the City even has a Trail and Sidewalk System Plan to help identify needs and develop long-term goals and program improvements.

Golden Valley's location also provides easy access to the regional trail system operated by Three Rivers Park District (Luce Line Trail) and the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (trails through Theodore Wirth Parkway). Both trails are part of the Grand Rounds network. While all of these trails and sidewalks provide opportunities for relaxation, exercise, and fun, keeping a few guidelines in mind will help make sure the trail experience is safe and enjoyable for all users.

Sidewalks

Sidewalks are designed for trips within a localized area or as connections to other areas (for example, between different retailers in shopping centers, between parks and nearby residential areas, and within residential areas for safe walking, running, or socializing). When on a sidewalk, always watch for vehicles backing out of or turning into driveways and watch for icy spots in the winter.

Sidewalks are generally narrower than trails, thus bikers are encouraged to use the street for travel instead (biking on sidewalks in Golden Valley is allowed except for in commercial districts). If bikers do use sidewalks, they should give way to pedestrians.



Trails

Trails are intended to handle a wide range of users at the same time. Multi-use trails are often significantly wider than sidewalks, and some are marked with a center stripe to separate opposing directions of travel. Trails generally have fewer access points than sidewalks and provide efficient travel for bike commuters as well as walkers.

When on a trail, keep to the right side and move off the trail if you stop. If overtaking or passing another trail user, make sure to give an audible warning before passing on the left. Slower trail users have the right of way.

Speed limits for bikers vary by trail. For example, speed limits are 10 mph on Theodore Wirth Parkway trails and 15 mph on the Luce Line Trail.

What About Motorized Vehicles?

Motorized vehicles (scooters, ATVs, snowmobiles, etc) are not allowed on City or Park District trails in Golden Valley, but local and state laws allow a few exceptions for special types of motorized uses.

Minnesota State Statute 169.011 defines a sidewalk as intended for use by pedestrians (any person on foot or in a wheelchair, including motorized wheelchairs). While this does not prohibit bicycles and other non-motorized personal transportation devices from using most sidewalks, it does infer that pedestrians have the right of way on sidewalks.

With the exception of Segways, motorized bicycles and foot scooters (State Statutes 169.223 and 169.225) may not be used on sidewalks or bicycle paths (trails) that are posted "no motorized vehicles," but they may be used on on-street paths and trails. Users should exercise great caution as they mix with vehicular traffic and should travel as close to the right side of the road as possible.

For additional information on sidewalks and trails, go to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us, www.minneapolisparcs.org/home.asp, or www.threeriversparkdistrict.org. 

Egress Windows Make Your Home Safer

If a fire breaks out in your home, time is critical for survival. Mere seconds may be the difference between life and death. That's why the Minnesota State Building Code requires egress windows to be readily openable without special knowledge or effort. Emergency escape and rescue openings must open directly to the outside without bedroom occupants having to go through the dwelling itself.

BEDROOM WINDOWS IN BASEMENTS

"Emergency egress and rescue openings are required in all bedrooms and in basements in new construction," says Jerry Frevel, Golden Valley building inspector. But if you remodel your basement or add a bedroom, they are required by the building code.

If the sill height is within 44 inches of the grade, an egress window must be a minimum of 5.7 square feet. All other egress window openings must be 5.7 square feet. Keep in mind the window with an opening that meets the minimum width and height will not necessarily meet the minimum required open area. The height should be at least 24 inches, and the width at least 20 inches. The window well must also be 36 inches in each direction, large enough to allow the window to be fully opened.

If a window well is deeper than 44 inches, it must be equipped with steps or a permanent ladder.

Emergency escape windows are allowed to be installed under decks and porches if the location of the deck allows the emergency escape window to be fully opened and leads to a path with at least a 36-inch clearance.

CONCERNS ABOUT SECURITY

The law requiring installation of egress windows has raised some security concerns regarding burglaries. The problem is that installing security bars or similar devices often defeats the purpose of a readily opened escape window, according to the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry. Fire deaths have been attributed to the inability to escape from a building because of security devices. So, the building code states such devices should only be installed where absolutely necessary and only with a permit after an evaluation by your local building official.

For more information, call the Inspections Department at 763-593-8007. For more information about fire safety, call the Fire Department at 763-593-8057.

photos by Dolan Holbrook



AN EGRESS WINDOW MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OPENING OF 5.7 SQUARE FEET.

Rental Properties Must Be Licensed

Since 2007, the City of Golden Valley has required all landlords of single-family rented property to apply for rental licenses. The licensing requirement helps ensure that rented homes are maintained to code for the health and safety of occupants. It helps

City inspectors know who to contact when they see a violation at a rented property, which expedites the repair process. And it gives police a better idea of who to deal with when there's a crime at a rented home.

The City instituted single-family rental licensing when property maintenance inspectors noticed a disproportionate amount of housing maintenance violations occurred in homes being rented out, says Golden Valley Property Maintenance Inspector Josh Kunde. With the ordinance in place, property in Golden Valley is looking better than ever, he adds.

For more information about the ordinance, contact Kunde at 763-593-8074.

Need Help For Home Fix-ups?

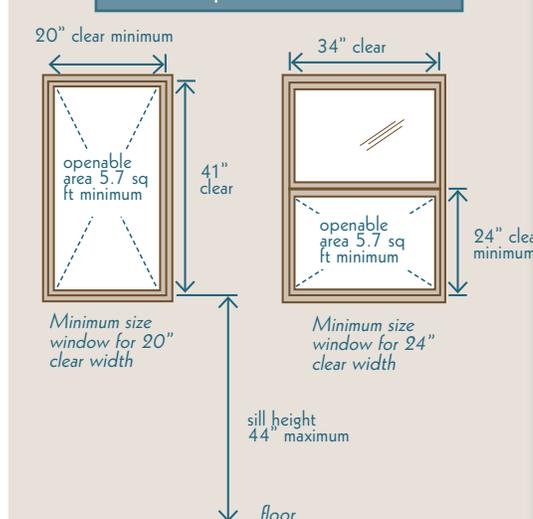


The City of Golden Valley has teamed up with the nonprofit Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) Financial Resources to deliver fast and free home improvement advice to any resident who wants it.

Homeowners looking to do home improvements can call the CEE and have an expert sent to their home for inspection, advice, and unbiased opinions. Golden Valley funds the advice service for the benefit of all property owners.

Funds are limited, so plan ahead. If you want help planning a home improvement project, call the CEE at 612-335-5856. For questions about the service, contact the CEE at 612-335-5881.

SIZE & LOCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR EGRESS WINDOWS.



City of **Golden Valley**
 7800 Golden Valley Road
 Golden Valley, MN 55427

PRSR STD
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 1659
 Minneapolis, MN



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.

Photo Contest
ENTRY FORM



Views of the Valley Entries Due June 12

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Day Phone _____

Age (if under 18) _____

Category

Natural Golden Valley

Golden Valley Lifestyle

Enhanced*

Title of Photo _____

*Enhancement Explanation _____

I agree to let the City of Golden Valley publish my photo(s) in City publications with proper credit.

Signature _____

All photo entries become the property of the City of Golden Valley and will not be returned.

Love photographing Golden Valley? Enter the 17th annual *Views of the Valley* photo contest. All winning entries are published in *CityNews* and the City Web site and reproduced for permanent display in City Hall. First prize winners in each category receive \$100; grand prize is an additional \$50. Deadline for entry is June 12, at 4:30 pm. Mail or drop off completed entries. City employees and their families are not eligible to enter.

Rules

- Golden Valley residents can submit photos in three categories: **Natural Golden Valley** (landscapes, flora, fauna, etc); **Golden Valley Lifestyle** (cityscapes, buildings, people, activities, etc); and **Enhanced** (photos significantly altered by editing software, lenses, etc). On the entry form, explain what alterations were made.
- Submit up to three **5x7** color or black-and-white photo finish prints (no slides, photocopies, or prints not on photo-quality paper; digital files must be accompanied by a 5x7 print on photo-quality paper). Do not mat or frame photos.
- Include complete entry information for each photo (see form at left). All entries submitted must be your own work. All decisions are final, and judges reserve the right not to award in any category. Contest organizers reserve the right to re-categorize or disqualify any entrant.



Last year's first-place winners by category: **Natural**, "Calm After the Storm" by William Lisberg; **Enhanced**, "Bird's Eye View" by Candis Erickson; **Lifestyle**, "Friend in the Garden" by Brian Wright

The City of Golden Valley is not responsible for lost entries. The photographer is responsible for obtaining approval from identifiable people in a photo taken in a non-public space. If you have questions or need more entry forms, call 763-593-8004.

Deliver complete entries by June 12, 2009 to:
 Photo Contest—City of Golden Valley
 7800 Golden Valley Road
 Golden Valley, MN 55427



7800 Golden Valley Rd
763-593-8000
 TTY: 763-593-3968
www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us

Mayor/Council Message Line: 763-593-8001
Council Members: Mike Freiberg, Paula Pentel, DeDe Scanlon, Bob Shaffer
Mayor: Linda R. Loomis **City Manager:** Thomas Burt

Editor: Cheryl Weiler **Assistant Editor:** Ben Sandell **Graphic Designer:** Kristi Bucher