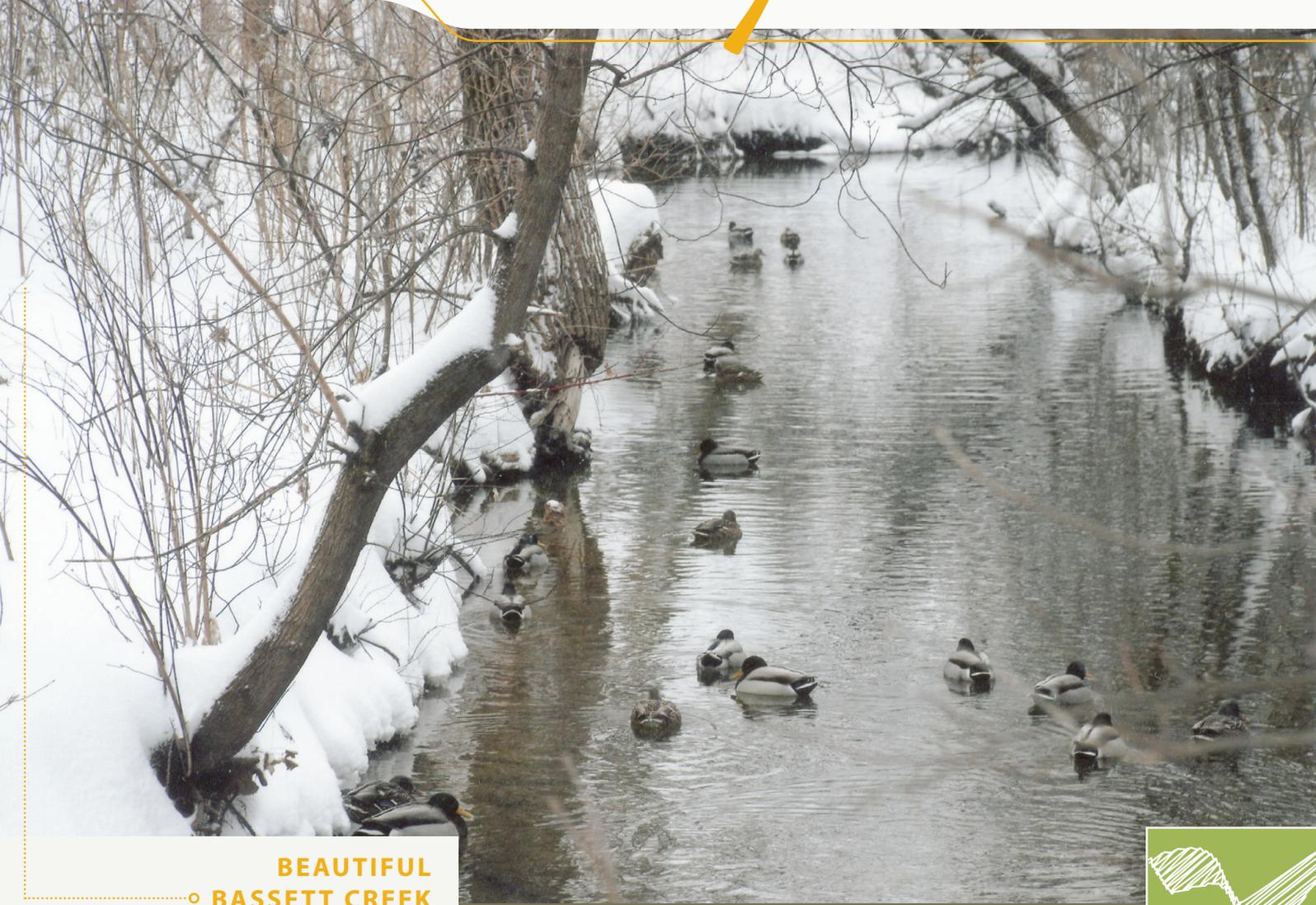




cityNEWS



BEAUTIFUL BASSETT CREEK

The City of Golden Valley is working to improve the health of local waterways.

SEE PAGE 5

Photo by Jill Lantto,
Views of the Valley 2007

ROLE MODEL OR RENEGADE?

Some of the most frequent complaints to the City involve vehicle speeds on local streets.

SEE PAGE 14

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cityHEADLINES

Council Working To Fill Vacancy

Freiberg Elected To State House Of Representatives

A vacant seat on the Golden Valley City Council, left by Council Member Mike Freiberg's Nov 6, 2012 election as State Representative for District 45B, will be filled by an appointment made by the four remaining council members.

Freiberg will continue to serve on the Golden Valley City Council until he takes the oath of office for his new position on the first day of the House session Jan 8, 2013.

Although Freiberg's term ends December 31, 2015, the newly appointed council member will only serve until the City election is canvassed in Nov 2013. According to Minnesota Statute 412.02, while the City Council must appoint a replacement until an election is held, a special election must be held to replace or affirm the appointed person if

more than two years remain in the unexpired term. That special election can be held at the same time as the City's next regular election, which in Golden Valley's case is Nov 5, 2013. The person elected at that time would serve until the City's next election in 2015.

The City Council will have initial discussion on all applications at its Dec 11 meeting and will select finalists based on their written applications. The interview and selection process will be completed by the Jan 16, 2013 City Council meeting.

If you have questions about the appointment process, contact City Council Administrative Assistant Judy Nally at 763-593-3991. 

City Budget Information, Documents Available Online

Each year, the City's budget process matches estimated revenue with projected expenditures to determine the General Fund Property Tax portion of the total City tax levy. Citizens can follow this process on the City Budget web page at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/budget/index.php.

The City Budget web page includes links to the current year's adopted budget, the proposed budget for the coming year, the annual budget process and schedule, the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), and the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports. Another link explains why Cities must maintain a General Fund Reserve.

For those who want to understand more about property taxes, that section of the website delivers detailed information on how property taxes are calculated, the market value and appeals process, special assessments and fees, property tax statements, and how to file for homestead classification.

"What Your Property Taxes Pay For" provides an example of how much a property pays each month for City services, such as police, fire and inspections, public works, park and recreation, administration, the tax abatement levy, debt levies, and transfers out. It also explains what each of these categories covers.

For more information about the City budget or your property taxes, contact Finance Director Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010 or svirnig@goldenvalleymn.gov. 

www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe/

Never miss another headline. Subscribe to news from the City of Golden Valley, tailored to your interests and delivered straight to your inbox.

City Council To Consider CenterPoint Franchise Fee

Additional Revenue Will Help Fund Infrastructure Repairs, Improvements

In an aging community like Golden Valley, there is a long list of things that need fixing. There is also a limited ability to fund the extra costs of needed infrastructure repairs through taxation. On Dec 18, the Golden Valley City Council will hold a public hearing to take comments about a proposed franchise fee on CenterPoint Energy to help fund those improvements.

According to Minnesota Statute Sect 216B.36, Cities may impose franchise fees on private utility companies for use of the public right-of-way (ROW). Energy providers pass the fees on to their customers within the city.

If the franchise fee is approved, beginning in April 2013, CenterPoint Energy would add flat fees to Golden Valley customers' monthly bills, depending on their usage classification. The monthly fee would be \$2 for residential customers, \$3.50 for small commercial properties, \$22.50 for larger commercial/industrial properties, and \$206 for commercial/industrial properties with dual fuel rates.

The proposed CenterPoint franchise fee is expected to provide approximately \$447,000 in annual revenue, which will not be

enough to address the City's infrastructure issues. The funds will be coupled with other fees, grants, assessments, etc to pay for projects such as reconstruction of Douglas Dr between Hwy 55 and Medicine Lake Rd, Zane Ave between Hwy 55 and Golden Valley Rd, and Lindsay St between Zane Ave and Lilac Dr, among others.

In October 2010, the City of Golden Valley approved an ordinance requiring Xcel Energy to pay an electric franchise fee to raise revenue for the City's portion of infrastructure and related costs for the Douglas Drive Reconstruction Project, scheduled for 2016.

Some other cities that have both gas and electric franchise fees include Brooklyn Center, Hopkins, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, Monticello, New Hope, Robbinsdale, and St Louis Park.

For more information about the proposed CenterPoint franchise fee, call Public Works at 763-593-8030. 

Enter 2013 Run The Valley T-Shirt Design Contest

The Golden Valley Human Services Fund (GVHSF) is seeking colorful, eye-catching, and unique graphic design entries for its annual Run The Valley 5K/10K Walk/Run T-shirt contest. (Each race participant receives a T-shirt.)

There are no requirements regarding message, size, or color. The designer may choose content; however, the City of Golden Valley logo or the name "Golden Valley Human Services Fund" must appear somewhere within the design. The GVHSF reserves the right to add these features to the design if not included.

The T-shirts will be white, all cotton, long sleeve. Printing will be three-color silk-screen (two colors are acceptable if the design is better suited to this format). Submit design in camera-ready format for use by the printer (color separations preferred). The GVHSF will handle all printing. The designer may proof the printing, if desired.

The winning design is selected arbitrarily (no ranking system is used) by consensus of GVHSF members. The winning designer will be awarded \$50 and two T-shirts after printing and be acknowledged in City publications. GVHSF shall have sole ownership of the winning design and permission to reuse it when so desired.

The **deadline for entries is Jan 4, 2013**. Submit entries with your name, address, phone number, and email to Brookview Community Center, 200 Brookview Parkway, Golden Valley, MN 55426. Complete contest rules available at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/runthevalley/contest.php. 



Run the Valley 2012 T-Shirt Design by Kristi Bucher

Avoid Food Waste With The "Three Rs Of Recycling"

Big meals are rarely in short supply during the holidays, and as leftovers pile up, so does the potential for wasted food.

Golden Valley Recycling Coordinator Mark Ray says it helps to think about organic materials as a resource, not waste, using the standard recycling mindset of reduce (the amount of food discarded), reuse (composting), or recycle (take the material to an organics collection facility).

"While taking it all on at once may be a bit overwhelming, remember it's OK to start with something basic," he adds.



Reduce

For example, shopping from a grocery list prevents impulse purchases of unneeded items, which saves money and reduces the amount of food later thrown in the garbage. Also, avoid sales that require you to buy a larger number of items than usual, particularly produce. This frequently leads to the food going to waste before it gets eaten.

Another easy way to reduce food waste is to make better use of your freezer. Pasta, soup, salsas, curries, and many other foods freeze well and extend the life of leftovers. Also, make sure to double-check sealable lids on leftover containers and keep the refrigerator between 35° and 38° F to optimize freshness.



Reuse

When you have to throw away food, think about composting it. This is more environmentally friendly than using a garbage disposal, and more beneficial overall.

Instead of taking up space in a landfill, going down a sink, or being burned in an incinerator, organic waste can be recycled as compost and reused in landscaping, soil enriching, erosion prevention, and even road construction projects, according to the Hennepin County Recycling Department.



Recycle

Hennepin County, in cooperation with local agencies, is working to make organics recycling an option for more of its residents. Meanwhile, you can still reduce waste by composting in your back yard

or dropping off organics at the Brooklyn Park drop-off facility, 8100 Jefferson Highway, Brooklyn Park, Tuesday through Friday, during regular business hours. For more information, call 612-348-3777. ♪

Golden Valley Recycles

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

GREY Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week
Christmas

Pick-Up Date
Sat, Dec 29

Missed Pick Ups

If your recycling is missed on Friday, call Allied Waste at 952-941-5174 before noon on the following Monday. If you have specific recycling questions, call 763-593-8030.

BLUE Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week
New Year's 2013

Pick-Up Date
Sat, Jan 5



To sign up to receive emailed recycling updates and reminders, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe.

Golden Valley Works To Reduce Unwanted Bacteria From Waterways

Though Action Not Yet Mandated, Golden Valley Gets Proactive

In the next several years, local waterways are going to get healthier and cleaner. Good news, when you consider the number of Minnesotans who rely on the Mississippi River for recreational activities and drinking water.

The City of Golden Valley is working to reduce excess bacteria from its streams and ponds, an issue highlighted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) when it listed both the Mississippi River and its tributary, Bassett Creek, as waters impaired by bacteria.

Impaired Waters

Impaired waters are streams, rivers, and lakes that do not meet water quality standards for their designated use as determined by the MPCA and the federal Clean Water Act. About 40 percent of Minnesota lakes and rivers, including several reaches of the Mississippi River from St Cloud to St Paul, have been labeled impaired.

Water can be labeled impaired for several reasons, explains Eric Eckman, Golden Valley's public works specialist. While Bassett Creek is impaired for bacteria and chloride, three area lakes—Sweeney Lake, Wirth Lake, and Medicine Lake—are impaired because of excess nutrients (phosphorus), which come from organic material and sediment.

"This is more than just a Golden Valley problem, but Golden Valley will have to be part of the solution," says Eckman. "And we have a long list of things we are already doing."

Addressing The Problem At Its Source

Harmful bacteria, such as E. Coli, can build up in waterways from several sources, including humans and warm-blooded animals, failing septic and sanitary sewer systems, and pet waste and fertilizer runoff, among other pollutants. This makes the waters hazardous to health and more difficult to sanitize.

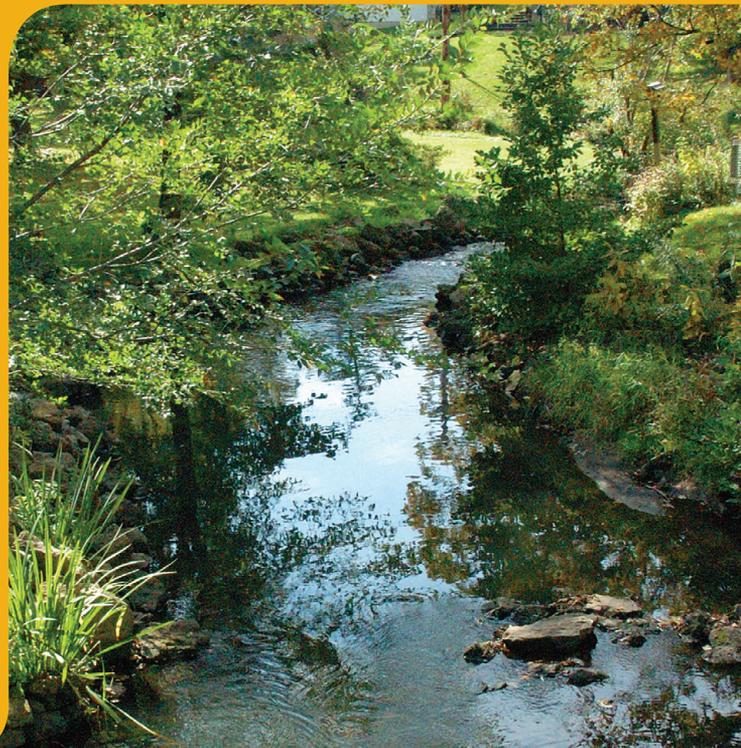
The MPCA has initiated a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study to determine the sources and reductions of pollution before requiring area cities to take specific action, which probably won't be until 2014, Eckman adds.

In the meantime, the City of Golden Valley wants to get ahead of the problem by taking the following steps to reduce waterway bacteria:

- Continue to implement sanitary sewer Inflow and Infiltration reduction standards and find and seal off leaky pipes.
- Clean out sump manholes and ponds that harbor bacteria.
- Reduce impervious surfaces that lead into waterways and establish vegetative buffers along the banks of ponds and the creek.
- Manage vegetation around shallow basins and ponds to allow UV light penetration.
- Sweep streets of leaf litter and organic debris, which contain nitrogen for bacteria growth.
- Educate residents on and reinforce the pet waste ordinance.

Over the coming years, the MPCA and Minnesota Department of Health will partner to lead this project in close coordination with area land and watershed management organizations, cities, and counties, to improve and restore the water quality of the Upper Mississippi River.

Watch *CityNews* and the City website for updates on the project. For further information on what's happening right now, contact Public Works at 763-593-8030. 🐾



Recreation Highlights

Complete list in the Winter Recreation Activities Brochure or at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation.

Youth

Ice Hockey Skills Camp—Dec 26–28 & Jan 2–4: 12:15–1:30 pm (ages 5–7), 1:45–3 pm (ages 8–10). \$25/resident, \$30/non-resident.

Youth Basketball (grades 2–6)—Jan–mid-March. Register by Dec 14. Volunteer coaches needed.

Mites Basketball (grades K–1)—Saturday mornings Jan 12–March 9.

Adult

Intro to Home Brewing—Wed, Jan 9, 16, & 23. 6–8:30 pm, Brookview, \$69.

Over 35 Basketball—Mon, 8–10 pm

Open Volleyball—Tues & Thurs, 8–10 pm

Open Basketball—Sat, 8–10 am

Open Pickleball—Wed, 8–10 pm

Davis Community Center, \$4/time/person. Gyms closed Nov 21–25, Dec 23–25, and Dec 31–Jan 1.

Seniors

Painting with Michelle—Mon, 9–11 am, \$39/resident, \$44/non resident for a 6-punch card.

Enhance Fitness—Mon & Wed, Jan 7–Feb 20, 11:30 am–12:30 pm, \$30 resident/\$35 non-resident. UCare members free.

Also: Tai Chi, Yoga, Pilates, Ballroom & Line Dancing, and more!

For more information or to register, call 763-512-2345 (Monday–Friday, 8 am–4:30 pm). Register in person, by mail, by fax, or online.



Skate Away!

Rinks Offer Fun And Recreation For All Ages

Golden Valley has 16 recreational sheets of ice at 10 locations (see below), and building and maintaining them depends on many variables.

To start making ice, crews need temperatures to be around 0° to -10° F for a week or so and frozen ground about four inches deep. Then crews can establish a six-inch ice base, which will help rinks survive most warm snaps. The final step is to build a smooth “finish surface” on the ice.

Crews like to get rinks open by mid-December and keep them open until mid-February, but making base ice requires a lengthy stretch of below-freezing days. If rinks don’t have complete ice coverage, they can be unsafe for skaters. Several recent years were warmer than average, leading to some late openings and early closings.

Once the rinks are open, depending on weather conditions, crews clean and resurface them Monday through Friday and clean them on Saturday mornings.

During extreme snow or cold or warm weather, rinks and shelter buildings may be closed. Check by calling 763-512-2350. If you have concerns or questions about ice conditions or rink maintenance, call Park Maintenance at 763-593-8046.

Skating Rinks in Golden Valley

Location

Golden Valley’s Park and Recreation Department (763-512-2345) maintains skating areas at the following parks.

H=Hockey rink
W=Supervised warming shelter
GS=General skating rink

Gearty	3101 Regent Ave N	H	GS	W
Hampshire	1610 Louisiana	H	GS	W
Lakeview	1521 Hillsboro Ave N		GS	W
Lions	151 Louisiana Ave N	H	GS	W
Medley	2331 Ensign Ave N	H	GS	W
Scheid	1856 Toledo Ave N	H	GS	W
Wesley	8305 Wesley	H	GS	W
North Tyrol	900 Westwood Dr N		GS	
South Tyrol	1510 Kaltern Lane		GS	
Yosemite	351 Yosemite Ave N		GS	

2012-2013 Schedule

Rinks open Dec 22 and close Feb 18 (weather permitting).

Monday–Friday: 4–9 pm

Saturday: 10 am–9 pm

Sunday: 1–9 pm

Holidays

Christmas Eve: 10 am–4 pm

Christmas Day: closed

New Year’s Eve: 10 am–7 pm

Martin Luther King Day: 10 am–9 pm

Presidents’ Day: 10 am–9 pm

Winter Break Weekdays: noon–9 pm

New Year’s Eve Skating Special: Scheid Park will remain open until 10 pm for families to enjoy winter fun activities. Hot chocolate will be provided.

Seniors Have Ways To Stay Active In Winter

City Rec Programs Offer Options

As the cold of winter sets in, it can feel like the chill climbs into your bones, slowing you down until any healthful activity sounds like a stiff proposition.

“Everything fuses together in winter,” says Mary Jo Browne, a participant at a twice weekly senior exercise class held at Brookview Community Center. “You need a little movement. You need a little encouragement. Good intentions don’t count.”

The Enhance Fitness class, taught by UCare instructor Katherine McGraw, is one of several activities offered by the City’s Park and Recreation Department to keep seniors active all winter long.

“It’s been phenomenal,” McGraw says. “Since I started teaching in July, they’ve all improved just by miles.”

The class works on, and measures improvements for, balance, mind-body coordination, weight lifting, stretching and cardio health. It also, like most senior activities at Brookview, boosts socialization and sense of camaraderie, say the participants involved.

“It’s good motivation to do this with other people,” participant Mary Dennis explains. “I couldn’t do it by myself.”

“I feel like we’re all friends now,” adds Jan Bartell.

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.

In addition to Enhance Fitness, the City offers a variety of other activities people of all ages can get involved in during the winter, including line, belly, and ballroom dancing; pickleball; yoga; Pilates; and even Tae Kwon Do.

And for seniors who prefer to take it easy but still want to get out and socialize, the City offers card game activities, art classes, educational discussion, and more.

“Most people are often unaware about all that’s available,” says recreation supervisor Brian Erickson.

Even in winter, Erickson says, “there’s an activity for you Monday through Friday.”

For information about winter activities and upcoming programs, contact Park and Recreation at 763-512-2345 or go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation/index.php.



OPERATION: RESCUE ROOM

Do you have the baddest bathroom in the west metro? The cruddiest kitchen in the county?

The 2013 West Metro Home Remodeling Fair is looking for ugly rooms that need to be rescued.

The second annual Operation: Rescue Room contest will give \$1,000 to the homeowner whose room is voted most in need of help by visitors to the Home Remodeling Fair on Feb 24, 2013. Last year, Roberta Whipple of Minnetonka won the contest and used the money to fix up her bathroom (see photos at right).

Complete rules and entry forms are available at www.homeremodelingfair.com/rescue. Deadline to enter is Feb 17, 2013. See page 15 for more about the Home Remodeling Fair.



From this... to this...

www.homeremodelingfair.com/rescue

Human Services Fund Celebrates 20

For Ole Olson, a meal a day stopped being a sure thing. Getting out of the house and preparing dinner got harder to do with age, and the weight loss became noticeable, says the Golden Valley senior.

Then, a few years back, some friends suggested he look into Dinner at Your Door, a non-profit service that delivers meals to those with mobility problems. So he signed up.

Olson is one of 23 people in the Golden Valley area who receive meal deliveries through Northwest Suburban Dinner at Your Door, an organization funded almost entirely by donations, a large sum of which are raised and provided through the Golden Valley Human Services Fund (GVHSF).

“It’s been good, for an old, widowed fella like myself,” Olson says. “I use a walker and going out isn’t the easiest thing in the world for me to do. This keeps me eating.”

Five days out of the week, the service brings a meal to his door promptly at 11 am.

“Without the contributions from the Human Services Fund, I’m not sure we could continue operating,” says Deb Anderson, treasurer for Dinner at Your Door. At the very least, she says, without those extra contributions, the meals would cost more for the clients, forcing them to cut back on daily meals.

The GVHSF, now in its 20th year, has a similar impact on many other charitable organizations in the area (see side story for list of charities).

“If there were an absence of funds and donations, inevitably

we would face hard decisions about limiting staff, and limiting our organization’s reach,” says Andy Swanda, director of development for Tree House, an organization that mentors and provides a safe place for local at-risk teens.

“I would like to offer a profound thank you to the Human Services Fund for recognizing the potential and the hurt that exists in these kids, and being willing to partner with us to help them,” Swanda says.

History of GVHSF

The GVHSF is a volunteer board appointed by the City Council and made up of seven citizens-at-large, five community or business members, one City Council member, and one Human Rights Commission member. It was established in 1992, when the City Council was exploring new ways to fund human service organizations that benefit Golden Valley residents in times of need.

“Around that time, State Statute began allowing Cities to collect 10 percent of pulltab revenue produced in the community, and the idea was to use pulltab monies instead of taxpayers’ money to help fund those human service organizations,” says Sue Virnig, Golden Valley’s finance director. Golden Valley collects its pulltab monies from the Chester Bird American Legion #523, VFW Post 7051, MN Youth Services, and the Crystal Lions Club.

As the City’s first program liaison to the GVHSF, Virnig was instrumental in working with board members to get it off the ground, including developing a mission statement, operating and funding guidelines, and eventually additional fundraising to supplement the pulltab monies.

Two prominent annual fundraisers are Run The Valley and the Golden Valley Golf Classic. Run The Valley, held in April, brought in \$21,915 in 2012, while the Golf Classic, held in July, brought in \$13,505.

A Proud Legacy

Over 20 years, the GVHSF has strengthened and grown in reach. From providing shut-ins with daily meals to giving troubled teenagers a place in the world, its benefits to the community at large resonate in untold ways.

Longtime Dinner at Your Door volunteers Brian and Donna Kron picked up meals at North Memorial Hospital last month to deliver to area residents.





10 Years Of Charitable Spirit

“There was a girl, a child of a crack addict, and all the money her family had would go to support those drug habits,” Swanda says. She suffered sexual trauma, was placed in foster care, and floundered in the system. One day, she got connected to Tree House through someone at her school. She built a relationship with one of the organization’s mentors and would later tell Swanda that this mentor “was the first person to tell me I was a strong, capable, and beautiful young woman, and that I had a future.”

These stories are common at Tree House, Swanda says. These stories have happy endings made possible by the support of the community and organizations like the GVHSF. They’re the legacy of a cooperative mission and a charitable spirit.

The GVHSF has been able to thrive largely through the donations and involvement of area residents and businesses.

“What helps make this group successful is the volunteers who do additional fundraising to help meet these needs in Golden Valley,” says Virnig. “The compassion of this commission is carried throughout every activity to make each event successful. Golden Valley cares about its residents”

For more information about the GVHSF, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/boards/gvhsf/index.php or contact the program liaison, Jeanne Fackler, at 763-593-2340.

To make a tax deductible contribution to the GVHSF, send your check to the City of Golden Valley--
ATTN: GVHSF, 7800 Golden Valley Rd,
Golden Valley, MN 55427. 

Run The Valley brings community members of all ages together each April to raise money for the GVHSF. See page 3 for details about the 2013 Run The Valley T-shirt design contest.



GVHSF Helps Fund Area Organizations

Since its inception, the GVHSF has allocated \$1,339,520 to agencies serving Golden Valley residents in need. For 2012, the fund allocated \$45,000 to 10 local human service organizations:

Community Mediation Services—Helps individuals and families to respectfully manage and resolve conflict.

Crisis Connection—Provides free, confidential 24-hour crisis counseling by telephone 365 days a year for help with issues such as depression, suicide, abuse, and family and relationship problems.

Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery—Provides 72 hours of shelter care for children up to age six for families in stress or crisis who need time away to stabilize themselves.

Home Free—Provides battered women and their children with safety, support, and information to explore alternatives to living with a violent partner. Services include a shelter, 24-hour crisis line, and community advocacy.

Jewish Family & Children's Services—Supports people of all backgrounds to reach their full potential by providing community collaborations and services for seniors, children and families, and those in need of financial assistance.

Northwest Suburban Dinner At Your Door—Provides hot, nourishing meals to people who are homebound and unable to prepare a home-cooked meal.

PRISM (People Responding In Social Ministry)—Provides families in need with food, financial assistance, transportation, and other services in times of financial hardships.

Senior Community Services HOME Program—Offers services to help elders remain independent in their homes.

Senior Community Services Outreach—Provides in-home counseling and case management to help frail elders remain independent.

TreeHouse—Provides guidance to teens experiencing difficulties at home, in school, or in their communities. Also provides support and education for parents and families.

Community Outreach Enhances GVPD Operations

Connecting with the community and building strong relationships is a high priority for the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD). The formula for success includes a mix of community meetings and events, public education, and a variety of partnerships with residents and businesses. For 2013, the GVPD is planning several new programs and updating others.

Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch helps reduce crime; build a sense of security, responsibility, community pride, unity; and develop extra “eyes and ears” for the police department.

With the help of a community survey, the GVPD is revamping its Neighborhood Watch program to include a monthly **WatchBlog e-newsletter**, **zone-based crime alerts**, an online **interactive crime map**, a **Neighborhood Watch Advisory Committee**, and a **Neighborhood Watch Manual**. The program will also feature **general crime update meetings** each spring and fall. In 2013 these meetings will be held at 7 pm April 17 and Sept 16 in the City Hall Council Chambers.

The GVPD also has a special program to provide crime prevention training to apartment owners and managers in the community. Quarterly meetings are held in the Police Department; dates and times for 2013 will be published online at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/police.

Public Safety Education

GVPD University (GVPDU) is an ongoing safety education series for citizens. First up in 2013 is the Citizen's Police Academy (see box below), followed by the Tech Savvy Series in the spring and the Senior Safety Series in the fall. Details are available online at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/police/gvpdu.

After cancelling Safety Camp for the past two years due to low enrollment, the GVPD is replacing it with Junior Police Academy, which will be modeled on the curriculum for Citizen's Police Academy (see box below) but aimed at youth ages 10–13. The day-long class will be held Tuesday, June 25 at the Police Department.

Police and Fire in the Parks

In another effort to connect with local youth, the GVPD will continue Police and Fire in the Parks, a summer program where kids interact with police officers and firefighters and enjoy pizza and ice cream, water relief via the fire truck hose “sprinkler,” and make important connections for the future. June and July dates will be announced in spring 2013.

Community Events

Each year the GVPD hosts a number of community events to promote public safety education, crime prevention, and unity. The annual GVPD Bike Tour, set for May 18, gives citizens a chance to discover Golden Valley from a police officer's point of view. The Public Safety Open House, set for June 16 from 6–8 pm, features tours, displays, and demonstrations at the Police and Fire Departments. Night To Unite on Aug 6 brings police and firefighters into neighborhoods to celebrate safety and community.

For more information about these or other GVPD programs, call 763-593-8079. 



Sign up to receive the **WatchBlog** and **Crime Alerts** at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe.

2013 Citizen's Police Academy

Tues, Jan 29–March 12, 6–9 pm

Golden Valley Police Department

Go behind the scenes at the Golden Valley Police Department. Get applications at the Police Department (7800 Golden Valley Rd) or at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/police/gvpdu. Tuition is free!

Seven-week course covers:

- 911 Dispatch Center
- Police Investigations
- Crime Analysis
- Hennepin County Crime Lab
- Hennepin County Canine Unit

- NW Metro Drug Task Force
- SWAT Team
- Use of Force
- Patrol Operations

For more information, call the Golden Valley Police Department at 763-593-8079.

GVFD Offers Life-Saving Tools

While it may be comforting to think you can go your entire life avoiding emergency situations, or relying on someone else to step up in an emergency, don't count on it.

The Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) provides two opportunities to improve your chances in an emergency. One helps others help you, and the other helps you help others.

File Of Life

If there's an emergency in your home and you're unable to communicate, wouldn't you want first responders to have the best information possible about your family?

The File of Life card provides paramedics with accurate medical information patients may have forgotten or are unable to provide. It's kept on your refrigerator in a red plastic magnetized pocket, and it lists household members' names, emergency medical contacts, insurance information, health problems, medications, allergies, recent surgeries, and much more. First responders know to look at the refrigerator for this information.

The Golden Valley Police and Fire Departments began distributing File of Life cards to residents a few years ago as an invaluable resource to emergency responders in life-threatening situations. For more information or to receive a File of Life, call 763-593-8079 or stop by the Police Department.

CPR Classes

Do you know what to do if someone complains of symptoms of a heart attack or suffers cardiac arrest? If you've never learned CPR but want the basics, sign up for the Family &

Friends CPR classes scheduled for January and February at Brookview Community Center (see box).

Instructor Stephen Baker, a paramedic and Golden Valley's fire education specialist, will cover adult, child, and infant CPR, AED (automated external defibrillator) awareness, and rescue techniques for choking in an adult, child, or infant. Skills are taught in a dynamic group environment which provides students with the most hands-on practice possible.

The course does not provide CPR certification, but it will teach life-saving skills for those who do not need a certification for their jobs.

"Taking even a short amount of time to learn CPR is extremely important," Baker says. "It's going to make a difference in somebody else's life."

When confronted with someone suffering a sudden cardiac arrest or other emergency, police officers and firefighters work as a team with the paramedics.

"Everybody is a part of that team," Baker says. "As a paramedic and firefighter, I'm asking people for their help, to please take the time to learn."



Family & Friends CPR Class

Thursday, Jan 17 or

Thursday, Feb 21

5:30–7:30 pm

Brookview

Community Center

\$10/person

Sign up with Park and

Recreation

at 763-512-2345



Adopt A Fire Hydrant

As snow accumulates throughout the season, fire hydrants get buried, creating problems for firefighters.

When something is burning, stopping to dig out a hydrant wastes crucial time.

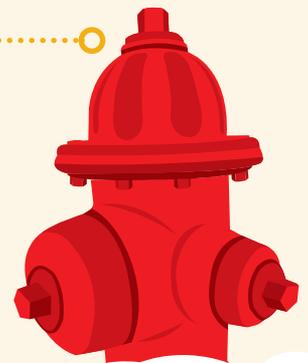
That's why the Golden Valley Fire Department needs help keeping fire hydrants clear of snow. A six-foot clear space around the circumference of a hydrant will help reduce the time it takes

firefighters to hook up hoses if a fire occurs in your neighborhood.

The best time to shovel out a hydrant is after the streets are plowed, before snow accumulates and freezes.

Help make this winter a little better and a lot safer for your neighbors and your community by adopting a fire hydrant.

While shoveling your driveway, take an extra 10 minutes to shovel out the closest hydrant. It could save lives.



City Crews Ready For Winter

Golden Valley's Public Works Department is ready for winter and prepared to keep 123 miles of local streets and 43 miles of sidewalk clear of snow and in safe condition.

To keep traffic moving, crews first plow collector and arterial streets that connect neighborhoods to State and County roads. Plowing stops if strong winds and drifting result in unsafe conditions; it resumes when conditions improve. The City calls a snow emergency after snow accumulates to two inches or more. However, an accumulation of consecutive snowfall events of less than two inches may constitute initiation of plowing.

Depending on weather conditions, de-icing crews use a variation of salt/sand-salt mixture on icy areas. Priority areas are treated first, and all other areas are done when time permits. Priority areas include:

- intersections of City streets and County and State roads, school and pedestrian crossings, bridge decks, and all arterial street stop sign intersections
- street intersections having higher than average traffic volumes, and streets with hills and curves
- all other stop signs and areas deemed hazardous by public works or police staff

Safety Around Snowplows

Efficient, effective snow removal requires public cooperation. For example:

- Reduce speed and keep a minimum distance of 50 feet from snowplows and sand trucks (frequent backing is necessary, and rear visibility is very limited).
- Never drive into a snow cloud or pass vehicles while they're plowing.
- Stay away from the end of a driveway when a snowplow is approaching.



- Keep sleds and toys away from the street when they're not being used.
- Never build snow forts or snow sculptures in the snow piles on the boulevard.
- Keep garbage cans and recycling carts in the driveway and off roadways and sidewalks if it snows on collection days.
- Listen to weather forecasts so you're not in transit when a storm hits.

Dealing With Plow Damage

The City is not liable for damages to obstructions in the road right-of-way (irrigation heads, landscaping, etc). These obstructions should either be removed from the right-of-way or marked clearly so plow drivers can avoid them. Mailboxes are repaired or replaced only if the plow makes direct contact (for details, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/streets/maintenance.php). Sod damage can be reported to Public Works at 763-593-8030 in the spring. Damages to sod are repaired each spring with black dirt and seed or sod.

If you have questions about the City's winter street maintenance, contact Public Works Street Maintenance Supervisor Chuck Perkins at 763-593-3982 or cperkins@goldenvalleymn.gov.

Winter Ordinance Reminders

Snow Removal From Private Property

City ordinance prohibits removing snow and ice from private property (including driveways and parking lots) to a roadway, across a roadway, or onto a sidewalk or adjacent property. If you or your plowing contractor have questions regarding this, contact Bert Tracy, Public Works maintenance manager, at 763-593-3981 or btracy@goldenvalleymn.gov.

Parking On Public Streets

Parking is prohibited on public streets after a snowfall of at least two inches until snow has been plowed to the curb line.

Vehicles in violation are cited by patrolling police. Vehicles found to be obstructing traffic or snow plows, and those still in violation after 24 hours, may be towed.

This winter, stay informed. Sign up for Golden Valley snow emergency email alerts at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe.



PMP Upgrades Infrastructure

In 2012, Golden Valley rehabilitated 1.9 miles of local streets and utilities as part of its ongoing Pavement Management Program (PMP). The project focused on streets in three areas of Golden Valley:

- Turner's Crossroad between I-394 and Golden Hills Dr
- Circle Down north of I-394 and east of Turner's Crossroad (see photos at right)
- King Hill Rd and King Creek Rd south of Glenwood Ave
- Welcome Ave, Welcome Circle, and Phoenix St south of Golden Valley Rd and west of Hwy 100
- Harold Ave between Glenwood Ave and Winnetka Ave
- Rhode Island Ave between Harold and Hwy 55

Streets were reconstructed to City standards, including concrete curb and gutter. The project also addressed necessary repairs to the storm sewer, water mains, and sanitary sewer mains.

2013 PMP

The 2013 PMP will include:

- Yosemite Ave N between Glenwood Ave and Yosemite Circle
- Yosemite Circle from Yosemite Ave N to Loring Lane
- Loring Lane from Yosemite Ave N to Turners Crossroad N
- Woodstock Ave from Yosemite Ave N to Turners Crossroad
- Hwy 55 S Frontage Rd from Schaper Dr to cul-de-sac

The City has completed preliminary survey and design work and met with affected property owners, and the City Council

has authorized the project at a public hearing. The 2013 PMP project was designed at the same time as the 2014 PMP, and a public hearing for both projects was held Nov 7, 2012. The City will bid the 2013 PMP in February 2013. Work is expected to start in spring 2013.

For more information about Golden Valley's PMP, contact Public Works at 763-593-8030. 

Circle Down looking east

BEFORE



AFTER



Open To Business:

Networking And Resources For GV Small Businesses



Local small businesses and entrepreneurs are invited to a Golden Valley/New Hope **Open To Business networking and resource-sharing meeting Thursday, Jan 3, 8 am, at Golden Valley City Hall.**

Open To Business is a partnership between the two cities and the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD). MCCD provides one-on-one business counseling to current and prospective Golden Valley and New Hope entrepreneurs who are then able to access MCCD's small business loan fund. The initiative started in March 2012 and has provided services to a number of businesses, two of which involved loan packages to Golden Valley businesses.

Rhinestones Unlimited, a local distributing company, is purchasing and rehabilitating a 10,000-square-foot building at 2305 Louisiana Ave with the help of MCCD financing. The family-owned company has 14 full- and part-time jobs.

Gotta Go Gotta Throw (GGGT), a wholesale distributor and retailer of disc golf equipment, received a MCCD loan to strengthen the company's financial operations. Located at 1200 Mendelssohn Ave, GGGT has 12 employees.

"We are pleased to be partnering with the cities to facilitate these two projects," said Rob Smolund, MCCD's enterprise facilitator and Open to Business coordinator. 

Role Model Or Renegade?

Obeying Speed Limits Keeps Neighborhoods Safe

According to Minnesota laws, the speed limit on streets in urban areas is 30 mph, unless posted otherwise (ie, school zones), and drivers must travel at a reasonable and prudent speed under the conditions. Yet, some of the most frequent complaints to the City involve vehicle speeds on local streets.

Bottom line: Speeding is not worth it. Let us count the ways.

Speeding Doesn't Really Save You Time

Speeding may give drivers a false perception that they'll arrive at their destination faster. For example, a trip from the intersection of Golden Valley Rd and Theodore Wirth Parkway to the DMV in City Hall is about 3.6 miles. Using only the distance and the posted speed limit of 35 mph, the estimated travel time is 6.2 minutes. At 45 mph, travel time for that same route is reduced to 4.8 minutes. It may be 22 percent faster, but it only saves 84 seconds, assuming ideal conditions. Weigh that against the speeding ticket you could get for going 10 mph over the speed limit.

Speeding Isn't Safe, For Anyone

While the time savings of speeding may not be that significant, the reduction in safety is. According to a September 2011 report published by the AAA Foundation for Public Safety (www.aaafoundation.org/pdf/2011PedestrianRiskVsSpeed.pdf), the average risk for a pedestrian fatality is 25 percent when hit by a vehicle traveling at 32 mph. At 42 mph the risk increases to 50 percent.

That Speeder Your Neighbors Are Complaining About Might Be You

When citizens contact the City with concerns about vehicle speeds, staff collects traffic data using a variety of methods. Upon review, in most cases vehicle speeds are found to be consistent with speed limits. Where there are problems, the Police Department follows up with focused enforcement based on the data collected.

Drivers pulled over for speeding on residential streets typically live in the area where they are stopped. This may be because people feel comfortable driving faster on familiar streets. In fact, when police do focused enforcements in response to complaints, it's not uncommon to find that the drivers pulled over and cited for speeding are the same people who initially expressed the concern about vehicle speed.

Keeping Golden Valley's streets safe for everyone is a team effort. Sometimes all it can take is one poor decision for a crash to occur. Before you get behind the wheel, take a moment to collect your thoughts and focus on driving. Be a role model, not a renegade. 🐾



How Valuable Is Your Time?

Golden Valley's DMV Offers Swift Service

Need new tabs? A snowmobile license? A vehicle title transfer? Can't stand waiting in line for any of them? Take advantage of quick, friendly service at Golden Valley's DMV. Each transaction helps lower your property taxes.

HOURS Mon–Thurs: 8 am–5:30 pm and Friday: 8 am–5 pm

CONTACT 763-593-8111 • dmv@goldenvalleymn.gov

WEBSITE www.goldenvalleymn.gov/motorvehiclelicensing



We're waiting for you, but you won't have to wait for us.

UPCOMING events

Mailbox to the North Pole

through Dec 14

Brookview Community Center

Drop off letters at Santa Claus' special Direct-to-the-North Pole mailbox at Brookview Community Center.

GVPD "Toys for Tots" Drive

through Dec 19 (see page 16)

NEW YEAR'S EVE FAMILY EVENT AT SCHEID PARK

Mon, Dec 31 | 7-10 pm

Scheid Park, 1856 Toledo Ave N

Enjoy skating, sledding and other winter fun activities. Hot chocolate will be provided.

Open To Business Networking Event

Thur, Jan 3 | 8 am (see page 13)

Run The Valley T-Shirt Design Contest

Submit entries by Jan 4 (see page 3)

Find more events and information
by visiting: www.goldenvalleymn.gov/calendar

Brookview Picnic Shelter 2013 Reservations

Thur, Jan 10 | 8 am

Brookview Community Center

Opening day for Golden Valley residents to reserve Brookview picnic shelters for 2013. In-person only reservations taken the first hour (8-9 am). Details at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/parks/brookview/shelters.php.

Family & Friends CPR Class

Thur, Jan 17 | 5:30-7:30 pm (see page 11)

WINTER WHITE-OUT DANCE FOR GRADES 5-7

Fri, Jan 25 | 7-9:30 pm

Crystal Community Center

\$5 by Jan 24, \$8 at the door

Wear white to help create a cool atmosphere and to receive a raffle ticket to win great prizes. Co-sponsored with Crystal, New Hope, and Robbinsdale. Snacks and beverages available for purchase.

Citizen's Police Academy

Jan 29-March 12 | 6-9 pm (see page 10)

WEST METRO HOME REMODELING FAIR

Sun, Feb 24 | 10:30 am-3:30 pm

Eisenhower Community Center

1001 Hwy 7, Hopkins



Get inspired, gather resources, and gain knowledge at the West Metro Home Remodeling Fair!

Co-sponsored by Cities of Golden Valley, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and St Louis Park and St Louis Park, Hopkins, and Minnetonka Community Education, the West Metro Home

Remodeling Fair promotes improvements to the housing stock in each community. Featuring vendors, seminars, and demonstrations, children's activities, and more, this event appeals to do-it-yourselfers as well as those looking to hire experts.

Be sure to check out Operation Rescue Room (see page 7) for an opportunity to win \$1,000 if you happen to have the ugliest room in the west metro.

For event details, go to www.homeremodelingfair.com.



7800 Golden Valley Road
Golden Valley, MN 55427

763-593-8000
763-593-3968 TTY

www.goldenvalleymn.gov

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Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund

Donation Form

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

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City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Contribution: _____

All donations are tax-deductible.

Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund

Join Us In Building A Safer Community

Safety is an important issue in Golden Valley, and the Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund works in partnership with the Police Department to enhance it by providing critical financial support for many crime prevention initiatives, including:

- public safety education classes, such as Citizen's Academy, Junior Police Academy, the Senior Safety Series, and the Tech Savvy Series (see page 10 for details)
- community programs like Police and Fire in the Parks, Minnesota's Night To Unite, Public Safety Open House, and the Bike Tour
- Neighborhood Watch and Community Crime Prevention Updates
- rewards for tips given to help solve crime

The Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund is a private, nonprofit organization run by citizen volunteers and supported entirely by donations from businesses and residents who understand that safety and security are critical factors in thriving communities.

After reading reports of crime and violence, it's easy to be fearful. Golden Valley is a very safe community with a low crime rate. This is due, in no small part, to the strong sense of community developed through projects supported by the Crime Prevention Fund.

Please consider joining the effort with a tax-deductible contribution. For more information, call 763-593-8054 or email cpfund@goldenvalleymn.gov.



WATCH THE TOYS FOR TOTS PARADE

Dec 19 | 4:30 pm

The route starts at the GVPD (7800 Golden Valley Rd) and follows Winnetka to Hwy 55 to General Mills Blvd to the KARE 11 parking lot.

Donate Toys At GVPD Until Dec 19

For 17 years, the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) has led regional law enforcement agencies in a unique approach to the Toys for Tots donation effort.

It starts with a toy collection at the GVPD. On the last collection day, police from as many as 20 departments load their cruisers with donated gifts and meet at the GVPD. Then, lights blazing and sirens blaring, they parade to the KARE 11 Toys for Tots drop-off site.

If you want to help, bring new, unwrapped toys to the GVPD at 7800 Golden Valley Road (open 24 hours a day) between Nov 24 and Dec 19 (at 3 pm). Don't forget gifts for older kids and teens. For more information, contact Sgt Steve Johnson at 763-512-2505.



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.

