



cityNEWS



◦ GOLDEN VALLEY FIRE: Looking For Citizens Like You

Be a part of the Golden Valley Fire Department's 70-year tradition of community service.
SEE PAGES 8, 9, & 11

VOLUNTEERING IN GV

Volunteers make a community strong, and Golden Valley offers many opportunities to get involved.
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cityHEADLINES

Watch Mail For Property Valuation Notices

Establishing property values requires careful valuation of every house and a scientific knowledge of the overall housing market year by year. The law requires that properties be inspected every five years, inside and out, and the City of Golden Valley contracts with professionals from Hennepin County to appraise the market value of your home.

Hennepin County assessors inspect one-fifth of properties in the city each year. They compare sales within the city to determine value for your property, but not all properties are created equal. The inside of the home could be completely different. That's why it's important to let the County assessor into your house for an accurate look. If they can't get in, they need to make assumptions. When the assessor comes to your door, be sure to ask for his or her Hennepin County identification.

The assessor analyzes actual sales of property in the city, reviewing last year's open market sales to determine the sale price of similar properties. Foreclosures, sales between relatives, or sales not on the open market may not be used in the evaluation. January 2 of each year sets the market value for the upcoming budget cycle. For example, values included for the assessment on January 2, 2013 are based on home sales that occurred between October 2011 and September 2012. These are used to calculate the tax payable in 2014.

Hennepin County mails property valuation notices in March. If you have questions about the assessed value of your home, you can call the assessors at the number listed on the valuation

From Assessment To Taxation

A 3-Part Process, 2-Year Cycle

Year One

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



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

Year Two

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



notice any time after you receive it. You may appeal (see steps in box below).

For more information, contact the Hennepin County Assessor's Office at 763-593-8025, or visit the Hennepin County website at www.co.hennepin.mn.us, click on "Residents," then "Home & Property," then scroll to "Property Information Search."

Steps To Appeal

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

- **Step 1:** Talk to your assessor. Call the number listed on the valuation notice you received in mid-March and discuss your concerns and sales information.
- If you can't resolve the problem, move to step two.
- **Step 2:** Attend the Board of Appeal and Equalization (Open Book style) meeting April 23, 4–6 pm, at City Hall. Appeal in person, by letter, or by designated representative. Tell assessors ahead of time you will be at-

tending the meeting so they can bring the appropriate information. If the problem is not resolved, move to step three.

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

Say "Cheese:" Views Of The Valley Is A Click Away

Photographers and critics alike can help promote Golden Valley and civic pride by participating in the 21st annual *Views of the Valley* photo contest. Enter your best work, vote for your favorite photo in the People's Choice award category, or both.

To enter, submit your favorite photos (see rules below). The entry form on this page can be photocopied, or download more at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/photocontest/.

Entry deadline is June 7, 2013, at 4:30 pm. Mail or drop off completed entries to Photo Contest, City of Golden Valley, 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427. Photo entries become the property of the City of Golden Valley and will not be returned. City employees and their families are not eligible to enter.

Contest Prizes

A panel of judges evaluates each entry on subject matter, composition, clarity, lighting, depth of field, artistry/drama, degree of difficulty, technical excellence, and overall impact.

Winners in each of the three categories receive \$50, overall grand prize winner receives additional \$50, and People's Choice winner receive \$25. All winners are published on the City website and in *CityNews* and receive certificates of appreciation.

Photo entries will be displayed at City Hall and on the City website. From June 11–25, Golden Valley residents may vote for the People's Choice award at City Hall during business hours (8 am–4:30 pm, Monday–Friday) or online at www.goldenvalleymn.gov. Winners will be notified in early July. Questions? Call 763-593-8004. 🐾



(Left) *A Closer Look* : Amy Sands
(Right) *Silhouette of Autumn* : Jason Boudreau-Landis

CONTEST RULES



- You must be a Golden Valley resident.
- Submit each photo in one of three categories:
 - Natural Golden Valley (landscapes, flora, fauna, etc)
 - Golden Valley Lifestyle (cityscapes, buildings, people, activities, etc)
 - Enhanced (photos significantly altered by editing software, lenses, etc.On the entry form, explain what alterations were made to each enhanced photo.
- Submit up to three color or black-and-white photos.
 - All photos must be trimmed to 5x7.
 - Do not submit slides, photocopies, or prints not on photo-quality paper.
 - Digital files must be accompanied by a print on photo-quality paper.
 - Do not mat or frame photos.
 - Include complete entry information for each photo (see form). Be sure to indicate the category.
- All entries submitted must be your own work.
- All decisions will be final, and judges reserve the right not to award in any category.
- The City of Golden Valley will not be responsible for lost entries.
- The contest organizers reserve the right to re-categorize or disqualify any entries.
- If there are identifiable people in the photo and it was taken in a non-public space, it is the responsibility of the photographer to obtain permission to use the photo.
- **Deadline is June 7, 2013, 4:30 pm.**

ENTRY FORM

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.

Spring Brush Pick-Up Helps Clear Way For A New Season

Make way for the bloom of spring and take part in Golden Valley's annual residential Spring Brush Pick-Up. The pick-up, running from April 29 to May 17, gives you the opportunity to place tree limbs and brush at your curb for collection and disposal.

Pick Up Schedule

The City will be divided into three sections (see below), with a week designated for pick-up in each. **Brush must be placed on the curb by 8 am Monday the week of pick-up.** If there is a lot of brush, pick-up may take longer than a week.

Section 1: Week of April 29

Area north of Hwy 55 and east of Douglas Dr

Section 2: Week of May 6

Area south of Hwy 55

Section 3: Week of May 13

Area north of Hwy 55 and west of Douglas Dr

Guidelines

Please observe the following guidelines when preparing your brush for pick-up:

- Tree limbs and brush must be four inches in diameter or less and approximately six feet long or less.
- Stack brush so the larger ends face the street (do NOT tie limbs together).
- Condense brush to one pile per household. **Trucks will stop only once at each property**, so if there is more than one pile, only one will be picked up.
- Do not use plastic bags.
- Place brush and limbs on the boulevard completely clear of sidewalks, mailboxes, streetlights and sign poles, landscaping and fences, overhead tree branches, and power lines. If piles don't fit between the curb and sidewalk, place them on the boulevard behind the sidewalk. The contractor



uses trucks with automated loading arms to pick up the brush piles. If your brush is stacked near a restricted area or tossed in a pile rather than stacked, it will be left behind.

- No leaves, grass clippings, stumps, soil, roots, limbs exceeding the size limits, building lumber, landscape timbers, or bags of garbage will be picked up. If any of these items are mixed in the brush stacks, the entire stack will be left behind. The contractor will not sort through brush stacks for acceptable material.

To dispose of brush or tree waste not collected in this pick-up, contact your garbage hauler or choose another contractor.

The Spring Curbside Brush Pick-Up is a component of the Golden Valley recycling program. If you have questions about the residential brush pick-up program, call 763-593-8030 or visit www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/yards/brush-pick-up.php.

Golden Valley Recycles

GREY Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Memorial Day	Sat, June 1
Labor Day	Sat, Sept 7
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 30
Christmas	Sat, Dec 28

BLUE Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Fourth of July	Sat, July 6
New Year's 2014	Sat, Jan 4

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.

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

Be Polite To Neighbors And Mindful Of Wood Fire Smoke

Poorly managed and non-permitted bonfires not only pose a public safety threat during the dry season, but they can also cause bad relations among neighbors, says Golden Valley Fire Chief Mark Kuhnly. A recreational fire, even a legal one, can be inconvenient to those living nearby.

So use common sense. If the wind is blowing more than 10 miles per hour, pick another day to have a fire, Kuhnly says. It's basic etiquette. It's also a City ordinance. Also, remember it's illegal in Golden Valley to use an outdoor wood burner to heat your home.

Rec Fire Permit Required

With the popularity of outdoor fire pits, construction of permanent fire rings and sales of manufactured fire pits have been on the rise. In response, the Golden Valley City Council passed an upgraded ordinance several years ago that restricts how recreational fires are managed.

A City permit is required before starting any recreational fire. There's no fee, Kuhnly says. It's just to make sure people are being responsible in terms of safety and neighborly etiquette. Recreational Fire Permits are valid for one calendar year and expire annually Dec 31. Lawful fires must:

- be constantly attended by a responsible person age 18 or older until extinguished (Whenever a recreational fire is burning, this person must have the Recreational Fire Permit available upon request by the City.)
- not be used to burn yard waste, construction materials, or common household trash (clean, dry wood is the only acceptable fuel)

- remain within an approved outdoor fireplace that is at- or below-grade and doesn't exceed 7.5 square feet with a perimeter not exceeding 10 feet. The outside edge must be ringed with brick, rock, or other non-combustible material to prevent fire spread.
- not be allowed if wind speeds exceed 10 miles per hour
- not exceed three feet in height as measured from the base of the fire
- remain a safe distance from any structure or combustible materials



This is an example of an illegal fire. It is too tall and not in compliance with the City ordinance.

A garden hose or other adequate means of extinguishment must be available for emergency purposes. Violations result in a one-year revocation of any Recreational Fire Permits.

Be safe and be respectful. Recreational Fire Permits can be obtained online at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/fire/permits/recreational-fires.php. For more information, contact the Golden Valley Fire Department at 763-593-8065. 🐾

City Outlines Requirements For Lawn Maintenance

Golden Valley's lawn maintenance ordinance bans noxious weeds and requires turf lawns to be maintained at eight inches or less. If a property is found to be in violation of the ordinance (10.51), the City mails a letter to the property owner. The property owner then has 10 days to comply before the City mows the vegetation at the property owner's expense.

If the City has to mail a second violation notice to a property owner, the notice will include a general warning that the City can abate future violations without providing specific notices. That means if a property has had two or more violation notices issued within the prior 12-month period, the City will

not mail further notices before mowing the vegetation at the property owner's expense.

The complete lawn maintenance ordinance is available at City Hall and the Golden Valley Library. Residents who want to vary their landscape by cultivating native plants can apply for a Native Vegetation Permit. For more information about this permit or the lawn maintenance ordinance, contact Public Works at 763-593-8030.

For questions or to report a tall weed or lawn maintenance violation, call 763-593-8074. 🐾

Recreation Highlights

Complete list in the Spring & Summer Recreation Activities Brochure or at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation.

Youth

Indoor Nerf Soccer (ages 5–7)—Thur, April 11–May 16, 7–7:45 pm, Davis, \$35/Res.

Kids Club (ages 3–5)—Starts April 15–16, Mon/Wed or Tue/Thur, 9:30–11 am, Brookview, \$45/Res.

After-School Tennis Camps—Starts April 29, Mon–Fri, 3:30–6 pm, Lions/Brookview.

Adult

Tennis Drills and Clinics—Tue–Fri, morning and evening sessions available, Davis/Brookview/Lions.

Yoga Flow with Laura—Tue, May 21–June 18, 5:30–6:40 pm, Brookview, \$50/Res, \$55/Non-Res.

Seniors

Money Matters—“5 Deadly Mistakes IRA Owners Make and How They May Cost You,” Thur, April 18, 10–11:15 am, Brookview.

Coffee Talk—“Dakota War of 1862,” Wed, April 24, 9:45–11:15 am, Brookview, \$2 at door. Register by April 22.

Fitness Classes—Enhance Fitness, M/W, 11:40 am; Tai Chi–T, 8:30 & 9:45 am; Yoga–T, 11 am

For more information or to register, call 763-512-2345 for Youth and Adult and 763-512-2339 for Seniors (M–F, 8 am–4:30 pm). Register in person, by mail, fax, or online.



Brookview Patrons Get Best Bang For Their Buck

Brookview Golf Course patron card holders get the most out of an often all-too short golf season. Card holders receive discounts on green fees, power carts, the driving range, and merchandise. They are also given preference when making advanced tee time reservations.

“The staff is excited for the season, and if you are anything like us, you are ready to get outside and on the course,” says Brookview Golf Course Director Ben Disch. “We have worked hard to provide an enjoyable and unique environment for all ages and skill levels, and the patron card is an excellent way to make the most of it.”

Benefits & Reciprocity

The course’s prime location in Golden Valley and excellent conditions make it an optimal spot to play, and patron card holders save throughout the year.

Senior (age 60 and older) and junior (age 6–17) patron card holders receive additional green fee discounts at designated times.

Brookview also offers the Par 3 patron card, which provides savings to golfers who use the nine-hole Par 3 course.

The benefits don’t stop at Brookview. Patron card holders have reciprocity with Baker National Golf Course in Medina and Braemar Golf Course in Edina. Brookview patrons can play at either course all day Tuesdays and Wednesdays or on Sundays after 1 pm and receive their patron, or preferred, rate. Simply show your Brookview patron card when checking in to receive the discount.

For more information about Brookview Golf Course and its patron card program, go to www.brookviewgolf.com or call 763-512-2300. ♪



Volunteers Help Grow Community

Volunteers make a community strong, and the City of Golden Valley offers many opportunities to get involved. Help is needed this summer in the following areas.

Playground Naturalist

Bring a weekly nature program to seven Golden Valley playgrounds. Commitment: One afternoon a week for seven weeks, June 10–July 22.

Playground Photography Specialist

Bring a photography activity to seven Golden Valley playgrounds. Commitment: Two afternoons a week for seven weeks, June 10–July 22.

Fishing Club Volunteer

Share your passion for fishing with kids ages 12–14 by helping club leaders teach them how to bait hooks, cast, hook a fish, identify fish, etc. Commitment: Tuesdays, 9 am–noon, June 11–July 16.

Rec Program Photographer/Videographer

Photograph or videotape recreation programs, events, and facilities for use in City publications, websites, and presentations.

Golden Valley Golf Classic Volunteers

The Golden Valley Golf Classic raises money for the Golden Valley Human Services Fund, which helps residents in need. The success of this event depends on numerous volunteers. Opportunities include: Greeter and Registration, Attester, Tournament Scorer, Refreshment Table, Photographer, Lunch Servers, and Clean-up. Commitment: Friday, July 12, 6:30 am–2 pm (hours vary by position), Brookview Golf Course.

Concert In The Park Attendant

Do you enjoy music in an outdoor venue? Welcome performers to the City at Golden Valley's weekly Concert In The Park series and provide assistance, as needed, to ensure a quality event. Commitment: Six evenings between June 10 and July 29.

Golf Tournament Scorers

Tournament Scorers assist groups at golf tournaments by transferring scores from each group's scorecard onto the tournament scoreboard. Dates vary with scheduled tournaments at Brookview Golf Course.

Junior Golf League Support

If you enjoy golf and working with youth, combine the two as a Junior Golf League support volunteer. Help beginners with rules, etiquette, pace of play, safety, and the enjoyment of the game. Commitment: Mondays, 6 am–1 pm, June 17–July 23. Dates and hours are flexible.

Group Opportunities

The City has several opportunities for area businesses, churches, scout troops, etc to volunteer as a group. Typically groups will do a one-day-only clean up, lilac planting maintenance, or storm sewer stenciling. Ongoing adopt-a-street or lilac bed maintenance opportunities are also available.

- Adopt A Lilac Bed**
 Sign up to adopt one of the many lilac beds planted along Highway 55 (see box below) and work on it during the spring and fall.
- Storm Sewer Stenciling**
 Stencil an environmental message on neighborhood storm sewers and distribute educational materials to the neighborhood.
- Litter Clean-Up**
 Pick up litter periodically during the year at various locations around the city.

For more information or to volunteer, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/community/volunteers/index.php, or contact Volunteer Coordinator Sandy Werts at 763-512-2341 or swerts@goldenvalleymn.gov.



Join The Golden Valley Lilac Project

Join friends and neighbors in beautifying the community! The Golden Valley Lilac Project is working to plant lilacs, shrubs, and flowers along Hwy 55 through Golden Valley. Each May, volunteers meet to maintain the lilac beds planted over past years. In September, the 6th annual Lilac Planting Party convenes to do more maintenance and plant yet another area. Volunteer for the planning or the planting team. For more information or to volunteer, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/lilacplanting/index.php, or contact Volunteer Coordinator Sandy Werts at 763-512-2341 or swerts@goldenvalleymn.gov.

6th Annual Lilac Project

Maintenance
Sat, May 25

Maintenance & Planting
Sat, Sept 28



Recruiting Daytime Firefighters

Local Businesses Respond To Corporate Call

Want to become a Golden Valley firefighter but live outside the City limits? Don't quit your day job.

Working within Golden Valley means you can be a Corporate Call responder, and that's exactly what the Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) needs right now.

Of the 50 firefighters on the GVFD, eight are Corporate Call responders (see box on page 9). But fires don't keep to a schedule. No matter what part of the day it is, or how many people are on call, emergencies happen and firefighters need to respond.

The GVFD created Corporate Call in 2002 to work with companies willing to allow one or more of their employees to serve as daytime on-call firefighters.

"Recruiting daytime firefighters is a constant challenge," says firefighter Curtis Smith, director of Golden Valley's Corporate Call program.

This is because being an on-call firefighter during the day can sometimes conflict with day-job responsibilities, he says, yet according to the firefighters who participate in the program, it's not as tricky as it sounds.

"I've probably missed fewer than five meetings," says Drew Gerling, a financial consultant at Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and a Golden Valley firefighter. "And as far as excuses go, telling a client there's a house on fire holds a fair amount of water."

But that's a rare circumstance, Gerling adds. Most fire calls are less severe than house fires and take less than an hour to respond to and get back to work.

Also, firefighters only have to respond to a third of all calls per month.

"If you don't make a call, you don't make a call," says Aaron Johnson, owner of Assured Exteriors. "This is not our livelihood, it's our passion, but you have to prioritize."

On Call While On The Job

Golden Valley firefighter Andy Hutson works in IT at General Mills. On his way to work last year he stopped to resuscitate a man in cardiac arrest on the side of Hwy 169.

"As a firefighter, I've been on 12 to 15 calls involving cardiac arrest victims," Hutson says. "My training and experience gave me confidence in what to do."

*Drew Gerling,
certified financial
planner at Thrivent
Financial*



Another time, Hutson found a co-worker unresponsive at his desk and used first responder skills to get him breathing again.

Rick Pertile, the safety and environmental coordinator at General Mills Main Office, says having an on-call firefighter on staff is clearly a benefit to the company.

“He has responded to several incidents in the building,” Pertile says. “A firefighter’s presence really shows other employees, too, that we care about their safety.”

Firefighters can also help with safety education, Pertile adds. Hutson and the GVFD helped coordinate a new CPR training program at General Mills, which has been a smashing success.

“Corporate Call gives companies a chance to get more involved in the community.”

And on top of all that, he says, giving employees the flexibility to pursue on-call firefighting is a good way to support the community at large.

Smith agrees. On-call firefighters show a high level of commitment to the community and, by extension, so do the businesses that support them.

Gregg Prest owns the business Crown Stamp & Engraving with his wife in Golden Valley and, at one point, firefighters made up two of the company’s four full-time employees.

“Half of our business would stop for the good citizens of Golden Valley when the alarm would sound,” says Prest, who’s been

an on-call firefighter for 16 years. Another on-call firefighter, Dave Koski, works for the business.

“It requires a little bit of sacrifice on our part,” Prest says. “But it has never hurt the business.”

“When clients find out you’re a firefighter, they understand you have a real service-oriented personality,” Gerling says. “In anyone’s profession, that’s a tremendous advantage.”

A Call For Day-Time Responders

If you’re interested in being a paid on-call firefighter during the day, or any time, or have an employee who is interested, contact Fire Education Specialist Stephen Baker at 763-593-3977 or visit www.goldenvalleyfire.com to find out more about what the job entails. For details, or to talk to fire fighters in person, attend one of the GVFD’s upcoming recruitment meetings (see page 11).

“Corporate Call gives companies a chance to get more involved in the community and employees a chance to learn lifesaving skills relevant at their day-to-day jobs,” Baker says, “all while solving the Fire Department’s challenge of finding enough daytime firefighters.”

GVFD Corporate Call Responders & Employers

Don Anderson (Streicher’s)

Drew Gerling (Thrivent Financial)

Andrew Hutson (General Mills)

Aaron Johnson (Assured Exteriors)

Dave Koski (Crown Stamp & Engraving)

Gregg Prest (Crown Stamp & Engraving)

Josh Richardson (Centurylink)

Matthew Ritz (Pentair)



Drew Gerling, Golden Valley firefighter



Bike-Along Enters Third Year

As spring melt clears the way for another biking season, Sgt Denny Arons is looking forward to hosting the Golden Valley Police Department's third annual Bike-Along, which takes residents on a bicycle tour of Golden Valley.

"The bike tours expose community members to different parts of the City they probably hadn't seen before," Arons says. "I try to pick two interesting destinations per tour."

The May 18 tour begins and ends at the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) and sets off at noon.

Police Department Bike-Along

Saturday, May 18, noon
Golden Valley Police Department
7800 Golden Valley Rd

Last year, the bike tour stopped at the historic home of Kid Cann, a 1940s gangster, and offered a rare back-door tour of Betty Crocker's kitchen.

The theme for this year's Bike-Along is "touch every trail," an exploration of the most interesting paths and bike routes throughout Golden Valley.

"There will be some mystery stops," Arons says. "It will be really cool."

Stopping points can include anything from ice cream breaks to tours of past crime scenes that have been investigated by the GVPD. Altogether, it's about a 15-mile moderate ride, Arons says.

Participation reached capacity for the last two Bike-Alongs. Up to 25 participants can sign up and should register by May 1. Participants must be at least 18 years old and provide their own bike and helmet. To register, contact the GVPD at 763-593-8079. 🐾



Bike Rodeo Promotes Skills And Fun

Break free of your winter hibernation at the next annual Bike Rodeo, held at the Golden Valley City Hall campus May 1 from 6 to 8 pm.

The annual Bike Rodeo sets out to educate kids in bike safety, as well as introduce them to local law enforcement in a fun environment.

"It helps reinforce safety tips and skills they may have forgotten over the long winter," says Brian Erickson, Golden Valley park and recreation supervisor. "The event has been held for years, and people really like it. Adults like to bring their kids and remember coming to it as a child themselves."

Last year, about 400 people attended the free event.

Kids will be able to run an obstacle course to try out their biking skills, and experts will be on hand to teach hand signals and fix mechanical problems with bikes and helmets. Participants will also have a chance to win door prizes, including gift certificates, bike gear, or a new bike. The Golden Valley VFW Post 7051 will provide hot dogs and chips. 🐾

2013 BIKE RODEO

Wed, May 1, 6–8 pm
Golden Valley City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Rd
(Rain or Shine)

- free bike safety checks
- bike skills tests
- bike helmet fitting
- complimentary refreshments
- music
- appearances by McGruff and Sparky

Sponsored by the Cities of Golden Valley, New Hope, and Crystal, and Golden Valley VFW Post 7051.



Don't Assume You Can't Be A Firefighter

Thinking about becoming a firefighter? Hesitating because you don't think you can do it? Or are you ready to dive in? Either way, you owe it to yourself to get the full scoop first.

Sometimes people think they don't have what it takes to be a firefighter, says Stephen Baker, Golden Valley fire education specialist. Or people apply, get hired, and realize it doesn't work out for them or it's not what they expected. Either way, they didn't do their homework.

The Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) has several ways to help prospective firefighters do that homework.

"Call us," says Baker. "We can set up meetings with you and other firefighters. Talk with us about what the job is like. Get an understanding of what is expected of you."

There's also the Golden Valley Fire Recruitment Expo. If you ever thought

about becoming a firefighter, this is your chance to get a feel for it. You can try on gear, practice some firefighting skills, watch a live burn, participate in a Jaws of Life demo, and talk with firefighters about how they make firefighting work in their lives. Then if you're still interested, you can attend a follow up recruitment meeting (see box for details on both events).



Golden Valley Firefighter Recruitment Expo

Thursday, June 13, 6–10 pm
Fire Station 1, 7800 Golden Valley Rd

Recruitment Meeting

Thursday, June 27, 9:30 am & 6:30 pm
Fire Station 1, 7800 Golden Valley Rd

Application Deadline

Monday, July 8, noon

To be a Golden Valley firefighter, you must live or work within six minutes of a City fire station and be age 18 or older. It also helps to be in good shape and have a clean driving and criminal record. Beyond that, it's a matter of what you're willing to give of yourself and your time.

Find out what it's like to be a paid on-call firefighter. For more information, see the article on pages 8–9, visit www.goldenvalleyfire.com or contact Stephen Baker at 763-593-3977. 

Firefighters' "Pie Rivalry" Helps Raise Record Funds

American Lung Association Reaps Benefits

On Feb 23, 2013, Team Golden Valley Fire and friends participated in the annual Fight For Air Climb in Minneapolis for the American Lung Association. With 785 other participants, they climbed the 30-story Accenture building in full fire gear.

And for the second year in a row, Golden Valley firefighters maintained a "pie rivalry" with the Chanhassen department.

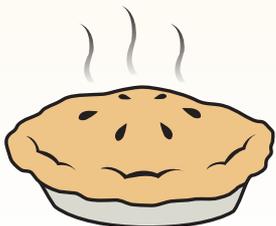
Whichever team raises more money for the lung association by the end of the climb buys the other team pie, says Stephen Baker, fire education specialist.

"Last year, we won by \$10, and Chanhassen bought enough pie for 50

firefighters," Baker says. "This year, they won by \$100, so we will be buying the pie."

The rivalry, Baker added, likely increased the amount of funds raised. Through friendly competition, together the two teams raised \$27,000, beating last year by several thousand.

Team Golden Valley Fire raised \$13,265 on its own, a record for the department and it's fifth year as one of the top firefighter fund-raising teams. Team Golden Valley Fire and friends included Stephen Baker and son Ryan, Ken Bence, Chris Gemlo, Brent Hadoff, Gregg Prest and sons Joseph and Isaac, Lisa Robinson, Anne Saffert, Phil Shea, Ben Vogel, Steve Yingst, and Golden Valley Mayor Shep Harris. 



Spring Brings Infrastructure Work

2013 PMP Will Rehabilitate Another Mile of City Streets

Golden Valley's 2013 Pavement Management Program (PMP) will reconstruct about one mile of City streets to City standards, including concrete curb and gutter. The project will also address any necessary repairs to the storm water, water, and sanitary sewer systems.

Reconstruction will mainly occur in the southwest quadrant of the Hwy 55/Hwy 100 interchange (see map). Streets include:

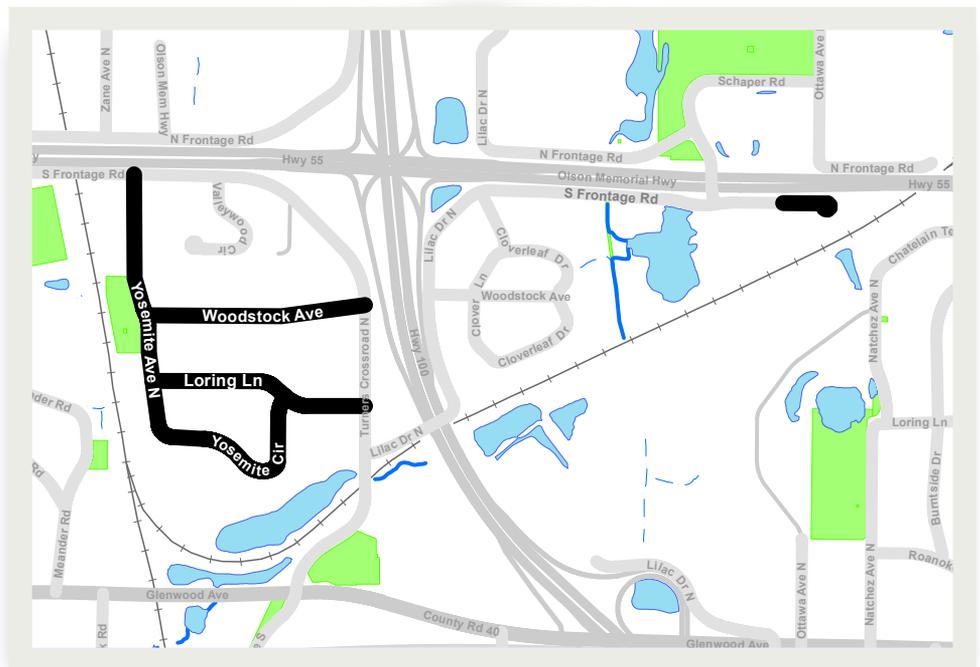
- Yosemite Ave N between Glenwood Ave and Yosemite Circle
- Yosemite Circle from Yosemite Ave N to Loring Lane
- Loring Lane from Yosemite Ave N to Turners Crossroad
- Woodstock Ave from Yosemite Ave N to Turners Crossroad
- Hwy 55 S Frontage Rd from Schaper Dr to cul-de-sac

The City begins preliminary survey and design work and meets with affected property owners at least one year before a proposed project is presented to the City Council at a public hearing. The City sends public hearing notices to each resident along streets being considered for rehabilitation at least 10 days before the hearing.

The 2013 PMP project was designed at the same time as the 2014 PMP, and a public hearing for both projects was held in November 2012. The City bid the 2013 PMP in March 2013. Work is expected to start in April or May 2013.

Residents who live in the PMP area will receive regular construction updates from the City.

To learn more about the construction process and the City's commitment to providing quality roads and infrastructure, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/streets/pmp. Questions? Contact Golden Valley Public Works at 763-593-8030. 🌿



Street Sweeping

Golden Valley is divided into four sections for street sweeping. This allows crews to rotate sections each year so no area is always first or last. This year, Section IV leads off the rotation, followed by Sections III, II, and I.

Section I boundaries: Winnetka Ave, north City limit, south City limit, west City limit

Section II boundaries: Winnetka Ave, north City limit, Hwy 100, Hwy 55

Section III boundaries: Hwy 100, north City limit, east City limit, Hwy 55

Section IV boundaries: Hwy 55, Winnetka Ave, south City limit, east City limit

Spring: Sweep curb-to-curb in late-March/April.

Summer: Sweep all gutters in June; clean low collection areas and sweep as needed in July, August, and September.

Fall: Sweep curb-to-curb in October and November (wait for as many leaves to fall as possible). 🌿



Water Main Breaks Common In Spring

Have Patience During Labor-Intensive Repair Process

The start-and-stop transition to spring brings repeated freezing and thawing, a hazard for roads and underground pipes. Golden Valley's clay soil is especially susceptible to this cycle, creating conditions that lead to water main breaks and leaks around the city.

Golden Valley's Public Works crews respond to water main breaks day and night, in all types of weather conditions. The labor- and time-intensive repair process requires coordination of a series of events.

"We respond 24/7/365, but it doesn't always mean we're able to fix the water main break immediately," says Public Works Maintenance Manager Bert Tracy. "We assess each break case by case, and some take hours to repair."

Repairing A Water Main Break

The process starts with a call to Gopher State One Call for an emergency locate. Then, a crew of four to five City maintenance employees prepare required vehicles and equipment and head for the site of the water main break.

If necessary, workers use special technology to locate the exact area of the leak. When found, they turn off water to the surrounding area. Unless the leak is causing extensive damage to the road or property, crew members will notify residents before turning water off.

Excavation begins after Gopher One locates are complete.

Tips For Residents

After the leak is repaired, workers turn the water on, pressurize the water main, and operate a hydrant to flush the water main.



They then inspect the repair under pressure to verify completion, and backfill and tamp excavation for compaction.

When you see dump trucks filling the excavation, it's safe to check your faucets for water. When water pressure is returned, turn on only the cold water. Start on the lower level of your home, and run cold water into a bathtub or laundry tub until water is clear and free of air. Run cold water from all other faucets until it's clear. Next, run the hot water faucets throughout the residence (if the hot water is discolored, the water heater may require draining to make it clear).

Any time you see water bubbling out of the ground, through cracks in the pavement, or from behind curbs and other places, call public works at 763-593-8030 (Monday–Friday, 7 am–3:30 pm). After hours, call police dispatch at 952-593-8051. 🌊

Radon Is An Odorless, Invisible Threat

Buy A Radon Detection Kit To Make Sure You're Safe

Radon is a naturally occurring, gaseous form of ionizing radiation that originates in soil and seeps into houses through cracks in basement walls, floors, and concrete slabs. Once inside, radon can linger and be inhaled.

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

The good news is that it's relatively easy and affordable to protect your family from radon—but first you need to find out whether it's there. Since radon is invisible and odorless, detection requires a special kit—an air-sampling device first exposed to a room's interior air for four to seven days and then sent to a lab for analysis. Radon detection kits are available at home improvement stores and on the Internet.

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

Pedestrian Safety Is A Two-Way Street

Pedestrians and motorists each cause about half of all pedestrian-vehicle crashes, making them equally responsible for pedestrian safety, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). Help reduce the risk of a pedestrian-vehicle crash by following the law and these safety guidelines from MnDOT.

ABOUT **50%**

OF CRASHES ARE CAUSED BY



Pedestrians



Motorists

Look before you cross.

- Make eye contact with drivers and ensure they see you and will stop.
- Clearly show your intentions to cross.
- Watch for turning and passing vehicles.
- Look across ALL lanes for moving vehicles before proceeding.

Make yourself visible to drivers.

- Stand clear of buses, hedges, parked cars, or other obstacles before crossing.
- Cross in a well-lit area at night.
- Wear bright-colored clothing and reflective material.
- Mount a safety flag on a wheelchair, motorized cart, or stroller.

Avoid dangerous and distracted behaviors.

- Cross streets at marked crosswalks or intersections; don't cross mid-block.
- Remove headphones and stay off cell phones while crossing.
- Obey all traffic signals.
- Don't solely rely on traffic signals; look for vehicles before crossing.
- Always walk on the sidewalk; if there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic.

Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks.

- Remember, every intersection is a crosswalk, even those without painted lines, signs, or stop lights.
- Look for and stop for crossing pedestrians when making right or left turns at intersections.
- Leave lots of room between you and the pedestrian when stopping.

Watch for pedestrians at all times.

- Scan the road and sides of the road ahead for pedestrians.
- Before making a turn, look in all directions for pedestrians crossing.
- Look carefully behind your vehicle before backing up, especially for small children.
- Watch for people in wheelchairs and motorized carts who may be below eye level.

Avoid distracted and aggressive driving.

- Put away the cell phones, food, and make-up.
- Stop for pedestrians, even when they are in the wrong or are crossing mid-block.
- Never pass or drive around a vehicle that is stopped for pedestrians.
- Obey speed limits and come to a complete stop at stop signs.

For more information on MnDOT's pedestrian safety campaign, visit www.sharetheroadmn.org.





UPCOMING (free) events

PHOTO BY KATHRYN O'CONNELL, VIEWS OF THE VALLEY 2013

Run the Valley

Sat, April 13 | 8 am (see page 16)

Spring Brush Pick-Up

April 29–May 17 (see page 4)

GVPDU TECH SAVVY SERIES

Tues, May 7–21 | 6–9 pm

Golden Valley Police Department

Free series on safety in today's tech-focused world. Register at 763-593-8079 or police@goldenvalleymn.gov.

2013 Bike Rodeo

Wed, May 1 | 6 pm (see page 10)

STEP TO IT CHALLENGE

May 1–29

Hennepin County

Participants record the number of steps they walk each week or the amount of time spent doing activities such as biking, Tai Chi, or even mowing the lawn. Twenty-three cities compete to see which one has the most active residents. Register at www.steptoit.org.

Police Department Bike-Along

Sat, May 18 | noon (see page 10)

Lilac Project Maintenance Day

Sat, May 25 | (see page 7)

Views Of The Valley Photo Contest

Fri, June 7 | 4:30 pm (see page 3)

Firefighter Recruitment Expo

Thur, June 13 | 6–10 pm (see page 11)

BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED SUMMIT

Thur, June 13 | 7 pm

Plymouth City Hall

Join neighbors, public officials, planners, and engineers and help craft a watershed plan that will shape 10 years of direction for managing local water bodies. Learn more at www.bassettcreekwmo.org.

Firefighter Recruitment Meetings

Thur, June 27 | 9:30 am & 6:30 pm (see page 11)

7TH ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Mon, July 15 | 7 pm

Brookview Park Large Shelter

Enjoy a John Phillips Sousa band concert followed by free ice cream. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on.

More event information at: www.goldenvalleymn.gov/calendar

**GOLDEN
VALLEY
DAYS**
art & music festival

Sat, May 18
9:30 am–9:30 pm
Brookview Park

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

9:30–10:15 am

Parade

10 am–6 pm

Art Fair, Games, Plant Sale, Envision Connection Community Fair

10 am–9:30 pm

Food Vendors

11 am–3 pm

Vintage Auto Show

11 am–9:30 pm

Music

3:30–5:30 pm

Bingo

9:30 pm

Fireworks

Presented by the Golden Valley Community Foundation. For more information, or to volunteer, visit www.gvcfoundation.org.



7800 Golden Valley Road
Golden Valley, MN 55427

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763-593-3968 TTY

www.goldenvalleymn.gov

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Plymouth Tree Sale

The City of Plymouth's spring tree and shrub sale is accepting orders from Golden Valley residents through April 26. Trees start at \$15; shrubs are \$8. Non-Plymouth residents will pay \$1-\$3 extra for each selection. Trees and shrubs do not come with a warranty.

Get order forms online at www.plymouthmn.gov or at the Public Works counter in Golden Valley City Hall.

Plants will be available for pick-up May 10 and 11 at the Plymouth Public Works facility (14900 23rd Ave N).

For more information, or if you have questions about the trees after buying them, contact Tim Teynor, assistant City forester, at 763-593-3976 or teynor@goldenvalleymn.gov.

Run The Valley Is April 13

Sign up for the 19th annual Run the Valley, set for April 13, and help raise money for the Golden Valley Human Services Fund. The race begins at 8 am for the 10K run, 8:10 am for the 5K run, and 8:15 am for the 5K walk (5K and 10K races will be chip-timed). Start and finish is at Brookview Community Center, 200 Brookview Parkway (south of Hwy 55 and west of Winnetka Ave on Brookview Parkway).

The certified course runs through residential Golden Valley—water stops and post-race complimentary snacks are provided. The first 650 participants to sign up will also receive a long-sleeve T-shirt.

Corporate sponsors are Bassett Creek Dental, City of Golden Valley, Golden Valley Community Foundation, and Liberty Carton. Other sponsors include: Al's Coffee, Cable 12/NWCT, Chiquita Banana, Einstein Bros Bagels, Finken Great Glacier Water, Go Health Chiropractic, Old Fashioned Donut Shoppe, Perkins Family Restaurant-Hwy 55, Perkins Family Restaurant-394, Road ID, Valley Pastries, and Yoplait USA.



To Register

- Online (by April 12): \$30
www.active.com or
www.zapevent.com
- On Race Day: \$40
7-7:45 am at Brookview Community Center

For more information, call Park and Recreation at 763-512-2345 or go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/runthevalley.

Rain Garden Workshops

Golden Valley is one of several metro area cities partnering with local watershed authorities and the nonprofit Metro Blooms to host workshops that explore the latest in healthy yard care practices. The \$15 workshops will be offered from mid-April to mid-June in a variety of locations, including one in Golden Valley May 15. A few close-by locations include:

- Wed, April 24, 6-9 pm, Brooklyn Park Community Center
- Thur, April 25, 6-9 pm, St Louis Park Rec Center
- Tues, May 14, 6-9 pm, Brooklyn Center Community Center

- Wed, May 15, 6-9 pm, Brookview Community Center, Golden Valley
- Tues, May 21, 6-9 pm, Plymouth City Hall
- Thur, May 16, 6-9 pm, St Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, Minneapolis
- Sat June 1, 1-4 pm, North Regional Library, Minneapolis

For more information and to register, go to www.metroblooms.org or call 651-698-1390.



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.

