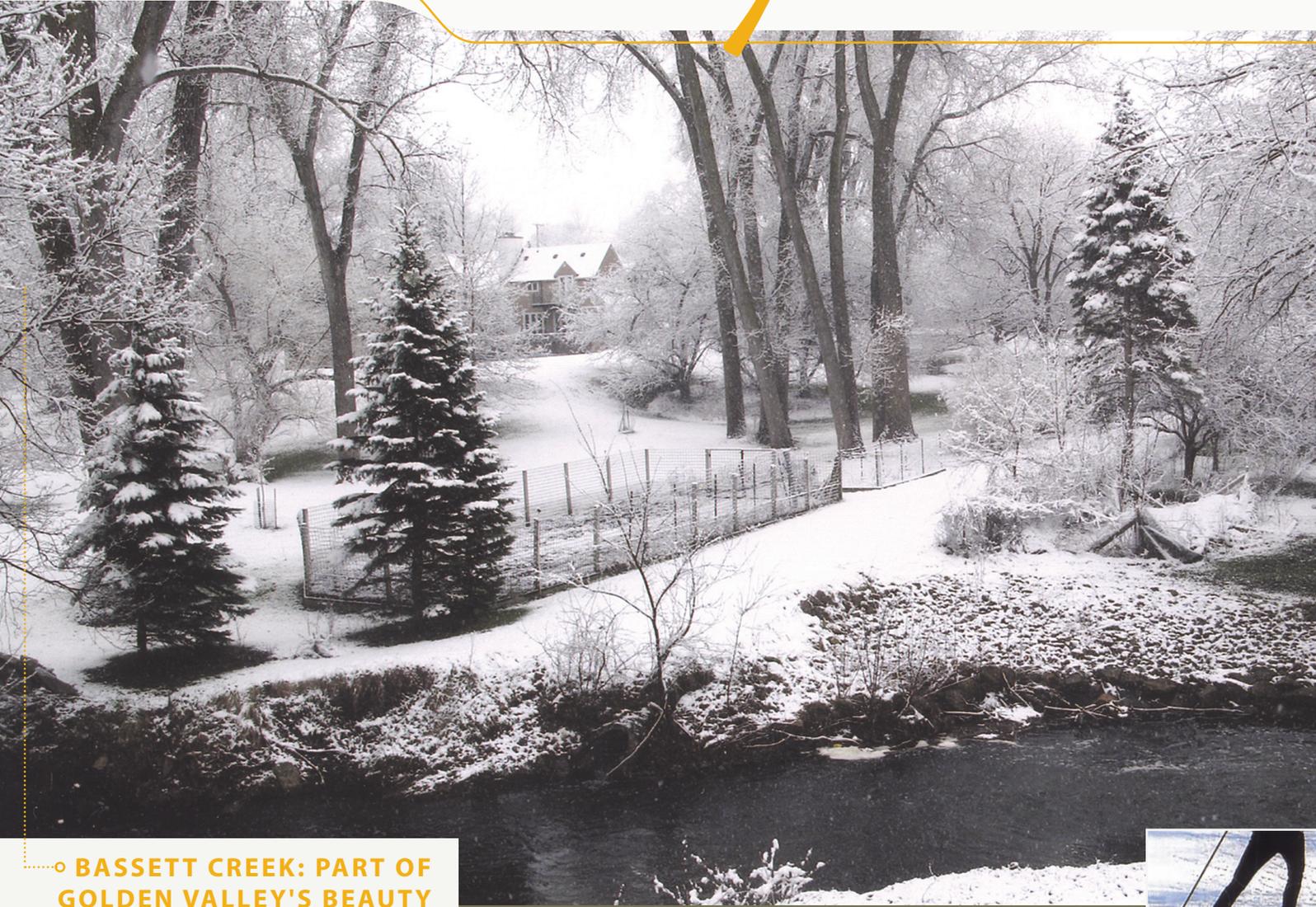




# cityNEWS



## ◦ BASSETT CREEK: PART OF GOLDEN VALLEY'S BEAUTY

Home and business owners are taking measures to improve local water quality.

**SEE PAGE 5**

Photo by Morton Kane  
*Views of the Valley 2011*

## FIRE SURVIVAL STORY

A Golden Valley family that lost their home to a fire last Christmas shares lessons learned.

**SEE PAGES 8-9**

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## City Concludes Budget Process For 2015

One of the City's primary goals is continuing quality services for its taxpayers. Golden Valley's responsible, long-term perspective to financial planning and management is evaluated each year, starting with budget planning in January and concluding in December when the City Council adopts the budget and certifies the final property tax levy.

Citizens can provide input during the budget process by attending meetings or contacting City Council members or staff.

### Property Values

Taxable market values overall increased by 6.18 percent. Most were residential values increasing by 11.17 percent, apartments by 19.27 percent, industrial by -1.65 percent, and commercial by .53 percent. Due to the many changes in property values, the tax impact could vary for each property. The median home value increased 13.22 percent after the Homestead Market Value Credit, from \$227,000 to \$252,500. The City portion of taxes on the \$252,500 home is expected to decrease by \$2.20. The graphic below illustrates the monthly cost of City services on the median home.

### Total Tax Levy

The total tax levy is the amount of property taxes needed to help fund the City's general operations and bond payments. Fees charged for services and assessments make up the difference.

### Will My City Taxes Go Up?

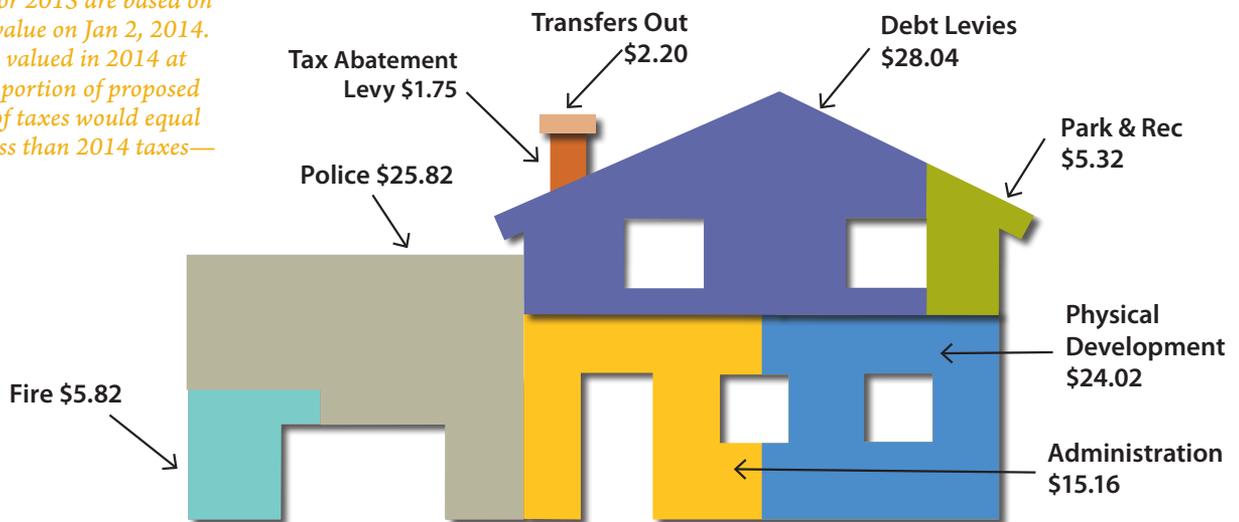
The total tax levy is divided into the City's total taxable market value to come up with a tax rate. That tax rate is applied to your net tax capacity (taxable market value times state tax class rate). Because values for each property vary, you may see a different total tax amount than your neighbor.

If your taxes increase, you may qualify for one of Minnesota's three property tax relief programs: the Homestead Credit Refund Program, the Targeting Property Tax Refund, and the Senior Citizen Property Tax Deferral Program. For more information about these programs, go to [www.revenue.state.mn.us](http://www.revenue.state.mn.us) or call 651-296-3781.

More information about the proposed City budget is available at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/budget/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/budget/index.php) or call Finance Director Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010.

## Services You Get For A Month Of Taxes

*Proposed property taxes for 2015 are based on a home's taxable market value on Jan 2, 2014. This example uses a home valued in 2014 at \$252,500. Using the City portion of proposed property tax, one month of taxes would equal \$108.13. (Note: This is less than 2014 taxes—homes may vary).*



[www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe/](http://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.

# Council Passes Lot Split Moratorium

In September, the Golden Valley City Council voted to place a six-month moratorium on single family residential property subdivisions until further research can be completed.

The moratorium is in response to concerns brought forward by several Golden Valley residents that the Council found in need of deeper consideration.

## What Is A Legal Subdivision?

Any resident or business with a property of 20,000 or more square feet has the legal right to subdivide (split their property in half and sell the other half) as long as both resulting properties are at least 10,000 square feet and have sufficient width. Whoever buys the sold half of the property then has the legal right to build on that property as long as the builder receives approval from the City. The City's approval process ensures that the lot is not part of a wetland and that it meets minimal building requirements.

The City approves a handful of such subdivisions every year.

## One Way To Look At It

Most cities have this kind of subdivision law in their ordinances, says City Planning Manager Jason Zimmerman. Such ordinances allow for change within a city and lead to denser housing, which means more people can live in a community. That can improve a City's economy, widen its tax base, and provide more options for younger families. Redevelopment from subdivisions also helps weed out older homes that are not as compatible with modern living.

In addition, Zimmerman says, many homeowners have been counting on subdividing and selling off half their property so they can fund family and life expenses, such as retirement.

## Another Way To Look At It

In Golden Valley there are a decreasing number of larger lots, meaning the neighborhoods that still have several large properties are seeing a disproportionate amount of housing development, and neighbors are feeling the impact, Zimmerman says.

With new development, different architecture styles, and denser housing, some people are concerned that the very character of their neighborhoods will be lost, he adds.

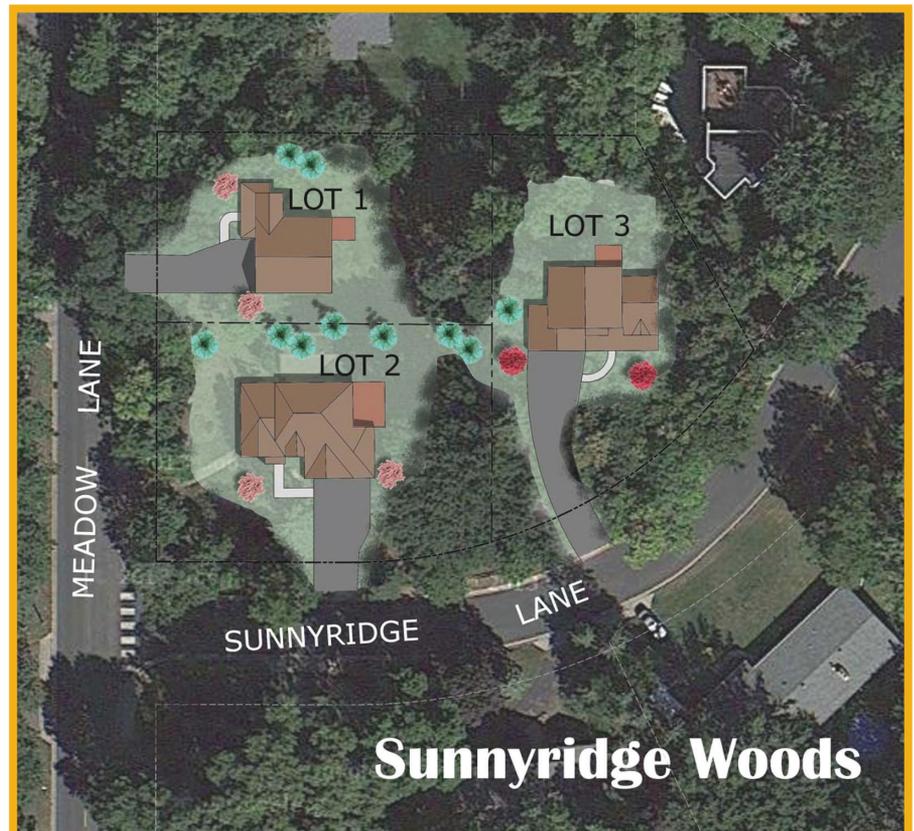
New construction often also means a decrease in open space and removal of trees and other vegetation, which can have an impact on an area's aesthetics and potentially raise issues with storm water management.

## What's Next?

"Residents have asked the Council to consider making changes to what's allowed," Zimmerman says.

Proposed changes to the law include protecting more woodlands and possibly requiring lots to be bigger than 20,000 square feet before it's legal to split them.

The City Council will vote on any possible changes to the law later this winter. 🌿



The subdivision most recently approved by the City is at 200 Meadow Lane N.

# Don't Place Recycling Or Trash Carts In The Street

When placing trash, recycling, or yard waste carts out for pick-up, please be sure they are not actually placed in the street.

Carts in the street can cause a potential hazard for vehicles and bicyclists as well as interfere with street maintenance operations, such as snow plowing and street sweeping, says Mark Ray, street maintenance supervisor/recycling coordinator.

Last winter, carts placed in the street for service had a negative impact on maintenance operations, he says. Carts should be positioned at least behind the curb, if not a few feet back from the street.

The City is not responsible for carts that are tipped over or damaged by maintenance vehicles performing normal operations. To minimize risk of impact, keeping carts back from the street is important.

## Curbside Recycling Reminders

The City of Golden Valley has provided curbside recycling service since 1987. It is funded through a grant from Hennepin County and user fees on utility bills.

Pick-up is every other Friday for curbside customers. Residents are in either the blue service week or the gray service week (see map at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recycling/curbside/pdf/recycling-weeks.pdf](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recycling/curbside/pdf/recycling-weeks.pdf)).

On collection day, have your recycling cart at the curb by 6:30 am (late set-outs do not qualify as missed pick-ups). Make sure the cart handle and wheels face away from the street and that carts are placed 3–5 feet away from other objects (trash containers, mail boxes, cars, trees, bushes, etc).

If your recycling is at your curb by 6:30 am on collection day and it still doesn't get picked up, call Republic Services at 952-941-5174 (select Option 3 twice) before noon the following Monday. Tell the customer service representative you are calling to report a missed pick-up and leave your address.



If your pick-up week falls during one of Republic Services' holiday weeks (unless holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday), pick-up will be one day later than normal.

## Scheduled Recycling For Special Items

Golden Valley's curbside recycling program also makes it possible to recycle appliances and electronics by scheduling a pick-up and placing the items at the curb. Residents must call Republic Services at 952-942-5174 one week ahead of their normal recycling service day to schedule a pickup. Fees range from \$25 to \$45 depending on the appliance or electronic device. The exact fee will be determined when you call. Remember: Place these items at the curb separate from the recycling cart.



To sign up to receive emailed recycling updates and reminders, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe).

## Golden Valley Recycles

### GRAY Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Christmas	Sat, Dec 27

### BLUE Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
New Year's 2015	Sat, Jan 3

### Missed Pick Ups

If your recycling is missed on Friday, call Republic Services at 952-941-5174, Option 5, 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.*

# Spotlight On Water Quality: Rain Gardens

Several home and business owners in Golden Valley have taken measures to improve local water quality. Some planted native vegetation buffer zones along shorelines or creek banks, some built ponds or installed rain gardens, and some use rain barrels to collect and recycle water. Every few months, in an ongoing series, *CityNews* will spotlight a different property that has implemented water quality improvements.

## Rain Gardens at Bigos Management

The Bigos Management building on Wayzata Blvd is surrounded by five rain gardens that were built in 2009 and are maintained regularly by Twin Cities Outdoor Solutions.

There are about 40 native plant varieties in the rain gardens, says Linda Pylka, Bigos purchasing manager, making the area aesthetically pleasing and environmentally friendly.

“If we didn’t have the rain gardens, there would just be concrete islands,” Pylka says. “The rain gardens are healthier. They filter what’s draining into the surrounding nature areas. And they provide a decorative landscape.”

## The Benefits of Rain Gardens

Some larger properties, particularly commercial properties, are required to have some form of storm water quality treatment facility, says Eric Eckman, environmental coordinator. But even if there’s no obligation to install one, it’s still a good idea for your property.

The rain gardens at Bigos Management help to protect the water quality of Westwood Lake, which is surrounded by the Westwood Hills Nature Center, says Eckman.

Rain gardens eliminate standing water, make lawns more attractive, reduce lawn maintenance time and costs, and improve water quality.

They can also cure an unsightly dip in your yard and attract visitors such as butterflies and birds.

Since all water is ultimately connected, having a rain garden, or two or three, is a way to act locally while having a global impact.

## Installing A Rain Garden

If you have property, chances are you can install your own rain garden, Eckman says.

A rain garden is a sunken garden that imitates nature. A single garden can accommodate about five percent of the drainable area (eg, a 25-square-foot garden would accommodate 500 square feet of lawn).

Plan to place the garden in a low area or an area where water tends to run through quickly after a rain or during snow melt. Even with a low starting point, the location must be dug from six inches to four feet deep, depending on the type of soil and volume of run-off water. Because of this, do not place a rain garden over any utilities. Before you begin such a project, visit [www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org) to have utilities marked.

When the garden area is ready, plant hardy native wildflowers, grasses, and shrubs that can withstand both very wet conditions and intermittent drought-like conditions. Once established, your rain garden will require little maintenance, and you can sit back and enjoy the wildlife that visits.

For more information on installing a rain garden, visit [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/yards/native.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/yards/native.php) or call the City at 763-593-8030. 🌿



# Recreation Highlights

Complete list in the Winter Recreation Activities catalog or at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation).

## Youth

**Mite Basketball** (grades K–1)— Skill-based program for girls and boys. Sat, Jan 24–March 14. \$43/resident, \$50/non-resident.

## Adult

**Indoor Co-Rec Volleyball League**— Wed, Jan 7–March 11. Register by Dec 19. \$260/resident, \$275/nonresident.

**Kung Fu** (ages 12–adult)—Jan 8–Feb 12, Brookview. \$70/resident, \$75/non-resident.

**Davis Community Center Open Gyms**—8–10 pm: Mon (35+ Basketball), Tues/Thur (18+ Volleyball); 8–10 am: Sat (18+ Basketball); 1–3 pm: Sun (Family Gym Time); 3–5 pm: Sun (18+ Pickleball).

## Seniors

**The Power Of Flowers**—Thur, Dec 4, 1–2:30 pm, Calvary Center Cooperative, 7600 Golden Valley Rd.

**Annual Membership Donation**—Support your senior program, get the newsletter. \$5/residents, \$8/non-residents.

**Programs/Classes starting in January**—Blood Pressure Screening, Coffee Talk, Defensive Driving, Foot Clinic, Insurance Counseling, Living Wise and Well, Monday Open Studio, Money Matters, Pickleball, Remember When, Tai Chi. Call for information.

**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.

# Check Out Brookview's New Winter Rec Options!

## Ski \* Bike \* Walk \* Skijour \* Snowshoe

Golden Valley's beautiful Brookview Golf Course will be open for business this winter, offering a variety of recreation options to suit all members of the family.

In a partnership with Three Rivers Park District, the City will groom two winter multi-use recreation trails that will meander through the golf course—one for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile and one for  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles. The unlighted corduroy-style compacted trails will be 6 to 8 feet wide and will rely upon natural snow. Trail maintenance will begin when snow conditions are appropriate and will continue through late February (contingent upon weather and snow conditions).

Trails will be available for fat tire biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, skijouring, and winter walking. The Brookview Grill will be open on weekends to provide food, beverages, and warm-up areas inside or around the outdoor fire pit. Restrooms and locker rooms are also available.

## Fat Tire Biking

Brookview is partnering with Tonka Cycle & Ski and Salsa Bikes to offer fat bike rentals for use on the trails. Fat bikes are rented in two-hour increments for \$25 and come with a bike helmet (required), a small storage bag, and lights for after-dark trail use. A waiver is required for all bike rentals (parent/guardian signature required for those under age 18), as is a credit card hold until the bike is returned. Rentals are available during winter Brookview Grill hours (see page 7). Call 763-512-2305 to book rentals.

## Fat Tire Bike Races

Whether you're racing or watching, be sure to catch Brookview's Fat Bike races in early January and late February. Races will be timed using computer chips with a mini-wave start format of up to six bikers at a time. Prizes will be awarded to top three racers in each category: Beginner (1 lap), Sport (2 laps) and Expert (3 laps). Each lap is approximately  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles. Races limited to 160 participants. Only Fat Bikes (minimum tire width of 3.8 inches) are allowed to race.

Race information and registration forms are available on-line at [www.brookviewgolf.com](http://www.brookviewgolf.com) or by calling 763-512-2305. Race fees are \$20/person pre-registration; \$25 day of race. Participants are encouraged to register in advance. Check in noon–8 pm the day before the race or 7:30–10 am day of race. Races sponsored in conjunction with Three Rivers Park District, Tonka Cycle & Ski, and Salsa Bikes. 🦋

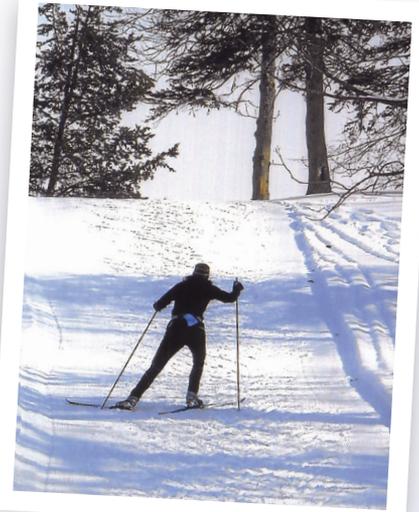


PHOTO BY JANICE LAULAINEN, VIEWS OF THE VALLEY 2011

**Call the weather line** at 763-512-2300 (press option 2, then option 1) for trail conditions and closure updates.



# Light Rail Transit Update

## County Presents Preliminary Station Area Concepts

Planning for the METRO Blue Line Extension light rail line (formerly known as the Bottineau line) continues to move forward in anticipation of an opening date in 2021.

Overall, the project is in the project development phase, which focuses on preliminary engineering and final environmental assessments. Locally, the station area planning process has begun. Current plans indicate station locations where Golden Valley Road and/or Plymouth Avenue cross the BNSF railroad tracks. Part of the station area planning process involves considering the potential for long-term future redevelopment around the station platforms.

In August 2013, the City Council created a Planning Advisory Committee to work with Hennepin County on station area plans. On Nov 12, 2014, Hennepin County held an open house to unveil the first preliminary concepts for the station areas. Residents were shown a range of options located on properties determined most likely to provide opportunities for redevelopment in the future. They could also create their own station area concepts on blank maps.

A majority of the changes suggested by the preliminary concepts would be voluntary. No private properties would be involved

unless three conditions existed: 1) the City's Comprehensive Plan and zoning map would allow for the proposed use, 2) there was an interested seller, and 3) there was an interested buyer, such as a developer. In addition, such potential changes, if they were to occur, would be a number of years away.



The concepts presented at the open house can be found on the City's web site at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/planning/bottineau.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/planning/bottineau.php). Comments and feedback on the concepts will help the County and its consultants narrow and refine the plans in anticipation of a second public open house in January 2015.

The station area planning process should be completed by April 2015. Municipal consent for the METRO Blue Line Extension is planned for mid-2016. Final engineering would take place in 2017 and 2018 with construction following, leading up to the line opening in 2021. ~

## Winter Rec (continued)

### Brookview Grill Hours

The Brookview Grill will be open this winter Fridays through Sundays, plus winter break and non-school days, Dec 12 through Feb 16. The Grill will offer a special winter food menu and full line of on-sale beverages, including hot chocolate and a S'more kit. The Grill will not open when the temperature exceeds 10 below zero or a combination of temperature/wind chill exceeding 15 below zero. Private rentals for the Grill and outdoor fire pit are available. Call 763-512-2305 for more information.

- Fridays 11 am–9 pm
- Saturdays 10 am–8 pm
- Sundays 10 am–5 pm
- Winter break weekdays (Dec 22–Jan 2),  
New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day,  
Presidents' Day 10 am–5 pm
- Christmas Eve Closed
- Christmas Day Closed
- New Year's Eve 10 am–3 pm

### Skating Rinks in Golden Valley

Based on results of last winter's ice rink study, this winter the City will close winter ice rink/warming house operations at Lakeview Park and use the savings to increase holiday hours of operation at the City's six other staffed ice rinks.

The Open Space and Recreation Commission (OSRC) asked City staff to do the study to determine how to better meet the City's winter recreation needs.

The City of Golden Valley maintains skating areas at nine parks. For 2014–2015 rinks are scheduled to open Dec \_\_ and close Feb \_\_ (weather permitting). To see a list of rinks, amenities, and hours of operation, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/parks/skatingrinks/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/parks/skatingrinks/index.php). ~





Duvall family:  
Rachael, Brian, Kyle

# Golden Valley Family Shares Fire Survival Story

**O**n Christmas 2013, Rachael Duvall and her two children went to sleep in their own beds, in their own home. They would not do that again until the following September.

At 1 am, Duvall woke up to the smell of smoke. She got out of bed and looked around. Kyle, 9, and Brian, 12, were still asleep. The fire alarm wasn't going off and there were no flames. But there was a tapping sound.

"Like fingernails on the windows," Duvall says. "I thought maybe it was hailing outside."

She called 911 just as the fire alarm sounded. Then she got the kids out of bed. Other than the smoke and the trapping sound, everything seemed OK.

Duvall's best guess was that a piece of burning ember from the fireplace caught aflame in the chimney.

"Keep your cool guys. We're going to be fine," Duvall remembers telling the kids. "Just a contained fire."

As a precaution, they bundled up, gathered their two dogs and one of their cats, and headed outside. There was another cat still inside the house, but they couldn't find it.

"No big deal," Duvall figured. This would all be over soon.

The police arrived minutes later, and they didn't anticipate much danger, either, Duvall says. They asked Duvall to move her vehicle out of the driveway. Since the situation was so casual and unthreatening, just a minor inconvenience, she sent her son Brian back into the house to grab her car keys.

In retrospect, that was not a smart move, Duvall admits, but it also made life easier for the next few months. When Brian went back inside for the keys, he also grabbed Duvall's purse, which contained her cell phone and credit cards.

"That was our lifeline for the next several days," Duvall says.

She took the keys and moved her car across the street. The moment she finished parking, she says she looked over her shoulder and saw flames shooting up 15 feet from the roof of her house.

Duvall was right to think the fireplace was at fault. Burning hot gas from the fireplace escaped into the attic.\* The tapping sound Duvall had heard earlier was the crackling of flames just above her head.

Within minutes, the house was engulfed. The family watched from the street.

"I kind of lost it," Duvall says. "I just started laughing. My kids said, 'mom, it's not funny.' But, I told them, it's either laugh or cry. The boys were like, 'well, then cry, mom, that's a more appropriate response.' The whole neighborhood was outside. You could hear the sirens. It was just another interesting day in the house of the Duvall family."

The family stayed at a neighbor's place that night. The next morning, Duvall joined the fire investigators as they walked through her destroyed home.

\* Fireplace construction and inspection standards have changed in the 50 years since Duvall's house was built. CityNews will provide more information on this issue in a future edition.



The floors were like charcoal, she says. Ash covered everything. As she made her way through the wreckage, Duvall heard meowing coming from the laundry room. She followed the sound and found her formerly white cat, Leonard, now dark gray under a layer of soot, huddled behind the dryer. One of the firefighters picked it up, wiped it off, and brought it to the kids.

“They were thrilled,” Duvall says.

### **Always Plan For The Worst, No Matter How Careful You Are**

The fire investigators determined Duvall had done nothing wrong.

“It was just bad luck,” Duvall says.

Professional chimney sweeps should inspect and clean fireplaces at least once a year to prevent fires. But Duvall’s fireplace was clean.

That’s an important lesson, says Stephen Baker, fire education specialist. You can do everything right. Take all the precautions you can, and still fall victim to a stroke of bad luck.

“People think, ‘this won’t happen to me,’ but it can, and it does,” Baker says.

So always have a plan. If your house catches fire, know where you and your family should meet outside. This not only helps give you a clear destination in the midst of chaos, it also helps the firefighters. If people in your family run off to separate places, it’s possible not everyone will be accounted for, meaning firefighters will have to go inside the burning house to find anyone who might still be in there.

Duvall says she didn’t have an exit plan at the time. Since they weren’t panicking, they just happened to all gather at the same spot. She has an escape plan now, she says. She doesn’t assume anything anymore.

It’s also important, Baker says, to plan where you might stay, and how you will handle your basic needs in the short- and long-term, should your house burn down.

When it comes to fire safety, if you plan for the worst, you can survive the worst.

### **In The Aftermath**

The Duvall family stayed with a neighbor on the night after the fire, then they stayed in a hotel paid for by the insurance company, and wore clothing donated from the community. Finally, with the help of friends, they found a cheap place to rent for the next nine months.

Less than a year before the fire, Duvall’s husband, Clay, died from pulmonary disease. He was an artist, and they lost several of his illustrations in the fire. Much of the art, as well as some photo albums, went to an art restoration shop in Minneapolis.

“I just got back two of our wedding pictures,” Duvall says. “We got back a lot of stuff. It wasn’t a total loss.”

She says she has a lot to be grateful for.

“I’m very grateful for the reaction of the whole city. The fire and police departments were great. My neighbors were great. The kids and I are fine. Our house looks better than it was before. That’s the silver lining in a real dark cloud.”

This fall, the Duvall family got to move back into their home, which was rebuilt from the ground up except for one part: the fireplace.

“No way am I putting a wood-burning fireplace back into my house,” Duvall says. “No way.”



# Golden Valley Police Reserves

## Program Offers Life-Changing Experiences

While volunteering as a Golden Valley police reserve officer a few years ago, Shawn Rydell was riding with a licensed officer when they got a call about a resident who was unresponsive. When they arrived on the scene, the resident wasn't breathing on his own and was quickly brought inside the ambulance.

"The officer asked if I'd ride down to the hospital in the ambulance. So it was me, the paramedic, and the EMT," Rydell says. Just as everyone got inside the ambulance, the victim's heart stopped beating.

The EMT administered medication. The paramedic ran the breathing pump. And Rydell began chest compressions.

After a few moments, the victim's heartbeat returned.

"That was a life-changing experience for me," Rydell says. "He could have died without what we did. That's something I'll remember for the rest of my life."

These experiences are part of what makes working as a police reserve officer so rewarding, Rydell says.

"I'm a part of something exciting, something I normally wouldn't have the opportunity to do. And it continues to challenge me and humble me."

### Community Service

Joining the Golden Valley police reserve program is also a way to give back to the community, says Sgt Jeff Johnson.

"These reservists volunteer hundreds of hours every year, with no intention of ever asking for anything back," Johnson says. "They keep donating their time to the City because they love what they do."

Golden Valley currently has six police reserve volunteers, but Johnson hopes the number would be closer to 15. Reserve officers spend most of their time patrolling with other reserves and assisting sworn officers when needed. Animal control, crime prevention, traffic management, emergency response, and community outreach are some of their varied duties.

To become a Golden Valley police reserve officer, candidates must be at least 20 years old, citizens of the US with a high school diploma or equivalent, and have a valid Minnesota driver's license,

a good driving record, and no criminal history. They must complete required training and an evaluation by the GVPD, and they are asked to volunteer two nights per month and be available to attend the Hennepin County Reserve School.

### Flexible Hours, And A Resume Builder

Brad Soderling knew in high school he wanted to be a police officer, so to help build his resume, he joined the reserves after graduation. Like Rydell, he's had a variety of great opportunities through the program.

He remembers volunteering at Camp Ripley to be a bad guy in a police training simulation with specialized pellet guns.

"We got to cause the cops a little bit of pain," Soderling says. "Our trainers told us, 'don't be afraid to give these guys an experience they won't forget.'"

But that unforgettable experience went both ways.

"It doesn't matter if you're going into law enforcement or not. It's a great opportunity," he says, adding that the program is very flexible with its schedules.

"They know we have lives outside being a reservist," Soderling says. "But they appreciate every little bit of energy we give the department."

To learn more, visit [www.golvenvalleymn.gov](http://www.golvenvalleymn.gov) and type "reserves" in the search field. To apply for a police reserve position, visit [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/jobs/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/jobs/index.php).



*Police reservist Brad Soderling helps at the Byerly's Halloween Boo Blast.*



*Police reservist Shawn Rydell.*

# Teaching Life-Saving Skills

## Fire Department Offers AED Training To Community

The message is simple: 425,000 people die from sudden cardiac arrest every year. The average survival rate of a cardiac arrest is 5 percent. But according to Fire Education Specialist Stephen Baker, if the victim receives CPR and a shock from a defibrillator within the first two minutes, chances of survival jump to 85 percent.

“Which group would you rather be in?” Baker asks. “Personally, I’d want to be in the 85 percent group.”

More people will be in that group, he says, as more people learn basic CPR and as more public establishments and private businesses invest in an automated external defibrillator (AED). AEDs use prerecorded voice instructions to walk users through all the steps of CPR.

The Golden Valley Fire Department’s goal is to train 50 percent of those who live or work in Golden Valley about proper hands-only (no mouth-to-mouth) CPR and AED use. To date, Baker says he’s taught about 10 percent of the population.

Because it can be difficult to find time for a pre-scheduled safety class, Baker also teaches classes by appointment. If you can

get at least 10 people to sign up, you can schedule a free education class specifically for you and a group of friends or co-workers.

It’s not something to put off, Baker says. While it may be comforting to think you can go your entire life avoiding emergency situations, or relying on someone else to step up when the time comes to resuscitate a victim, don’t count on it.

Cardiac arrests, unlike heart attacks, can happen for no reason whatsoever. They result from an electrical abnormality and generally don’t produce any warning signs.

When someone suffers a cardiac arrest, they will stop breathing and become unresponsive almost immediately.

When someone’s heart and breathing stop, it’s critical that bystanders know to do three things:

- call 911 and get a defibrillator as soon as possible
- start hands-only CPR
- power on the defibrillator and follow voice prompts

Defibrillators are becoming increasingly accessible in public places, Baker says, but many people don’t realize they are often located mere feet away at businesses and places of work.

“There have been a number of cases involving cardiac arrest when there is an AED in the building and no one knows it’s there,” Baker says. “People should educate themselves about the emergency equipment that may be close at hand.”

To learn about upcoming CPR and safety classes at Golden Valley, visit [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/fire/education/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/fire/education/index.php). To schedule a class with Baker, contact him at [sbaker@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:sbaker@goldenvalleymn.gov) or call 763-593-3977. 🐾



*The Golden Valley Fire Department is training people who live, work, or play in Golden Valley about proper CPR and AED use.*



*Stephen Baker (with Greta Evans-Becker) presented a Hands-Only CPR and AED Awareness refresher class for the staff at Meadowbrook Elementary, which has three AEDs on site.*

# Managing Snow In Golden Valley

## City Operations, Ordinances Put Safety First

Every winter, City crews maintain 120 miles of local streets and 43 miles of sidewalk. It's a critical responsibility with safety and mobility as the focus.

### Plowing & De-icing

To keep traffic moving, crews first plow collector and arterial streets that connect neighborhoods to State and County roads. The City may call a snow emergency after snow accumulates to two inches or more. However, snow accumulation from consecutive snowfall events of less than two inches may initiate plowing and a snow emergency.

Depending on weather conditions, de-icing crews use a variation of salt or sand-salt mixture on areas of concern. Priority areas are treated first, and other areas are done when resources allow. 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
- streets with hills and curves
- areas deemed hazardous by maintenance or police staff

### Safety Around Snowplows

Efficient, effective snow removal requires public cooperation. Please follow these important reminders to help stay safe this winter:

- Reduce speed and keep a minimum distance of 100 feet from snowplows (frequent backing is necessary, and rear visibility is very limited).
- Never drive into a snow cloud or pass plows 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 along the street.
- Keep garbage cans and recycling carts in the driveway and off roadways and sidewalks if it snows on collection days.

### Winter Parking Restrictions

This summer the City Council amended the City Code to prohibit parking on public streets and alleys Nov 1–March 31 from midnight–6 am daily. Vehicles may be parked on private property in parking lots and driveways. This change was based on input from residents expressing concerns about safety and how parked vehicles impact snow and ice removal. (To request a temporary exemption, fill out the online "Winter Parking Waiver" form at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/permits/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/permits/index.php).)

Parking is also prohibited on public streets after a snowfall of at least two inches until the snow has stopped falling and the street has been plowed to the curb line. During a large snowstorm the City may plow a street multiple times. Keeping parked vehicles off the street will help crews efficiently and effectively clear the snow. Vehicles in violation are cited by patrolling police. Vehicles found to be obstructing traffic or snowplows, 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](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe). Listen to weather forecasts and adjust any travel plans accordingly. 🌬️



## Reminders For Private Property Owners

**Snow Removal**—Minnesota State Statute (169.42) and City Code Section 8.08 prohibit 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](mailto:btracy@goldenvalleymn.gov).

**Mail Boxes**—The City is not liable for damages to obstructions in the road right-of-way (irrigation heads, basketball hoops, free library boxes, landscaping, etc). These obstructions should be

removed from the right-of-way. The City will only repair mailboxes actually hit by a plow and installed to United States Postal Service Residential Mailbox Standards (for details, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/streets/maintenance.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/streets/maintenance.php)). Sod damage can be reported to the City at 763-593-8030 in the spring. Damages to sod are repaired each spring with black dirt and seed.

If you have questions about the City's winter street maintenance, contact Public Works at 763-593-8030 or [publicworksdept@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:publicworksdept@goldenvalleymn.gov).

# PMP Gives Streets New Life

In 2014, Golden Valley rehabilitated 1.2 miles of local streets and utilities as part of its ongoing Pavement Management Program (PMP):

- Western Ave between Jersey Ave S and Hampshire Ave N
- Hampshire Ave N between Glenwood Ave and Jersey Ave S
- Idaho Ave N between Glenwood Ave and Western Ave
- S Cortlawn Cir from W Cortlawn Cir to Edgewood Ave S
- N Cortlawn Cir from W Cortlawn Cir to S Cortlawn Cir
- W Cortlawn Cir from Western Ave to S Cortlawn Cir
- Florida Ct from Glenwood Ave to cul-de-sac
- Edgewood Ave S from Glenwood Ave to cul-de-sac

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.

## 2015 PMP

The next section of the PMP includes 2.3 miles of street in the area north of Plymouth Ave, east of Hwy 169, south of Naper Ave, and west of the General Mills James Ford Bell Research Center. Because the utility repairs required as part of the project significantly exceed the planning level cost estimates, the project will be split into three small projects to be done in 2015, 2016, and 2017 (see box below).

The City has completed preliminary survey and design work and met with affected property owners. A public hearing for the 2015 project is scheduled for Jan 6, 2015. The City will bid the project in February, and work is expected to start in spring 2015.

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

BEFORE



*Golden Valley's PMP rehabilitates the City's aging streets (see above) as a long-term investment in the community's infrastructure.*

AFTER



## 2015 PMP Streets

- Gettysburg Ave N from Plymouth Ave N to Olympia St
- Winsdale St from Gettysburg to Hillsboro Ave N
- Olympia St from Gettysburg to Flag Ave N
- Flag Ave N from Naper St to cul-de-sac

## 2016 PMP Streets

- Independence Ave N from Plymouth Ave N to Olympia St
- Winsdale St from Mendelssohn Ave N to Gettysburg Ave N
- Hillsboro Ave N from Plymouth to Winsdale

## 2017 PMP Streets

- Olympia St from Mendelssohn Ave N to Gettysburg Ave N
- Gettysburg Ave N from Olympia to Naper St
- Hillsboro Ave N from Olympia to Naper
- Independence Ave N from Olympia St to Earl St
- Wheeler Blvd from Mendelssohn to Earl
- Naper St from Independence to Flag Ave N



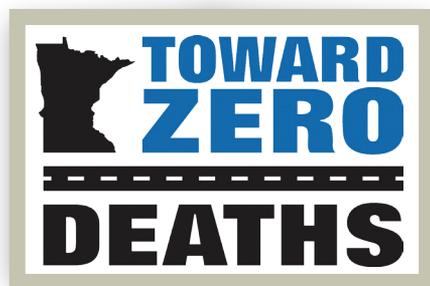
# Help Build A Safe Driving Culture

Seat belt and impaired driving enforcement and education are components of Minnesota's Toward Zero Deaths initiative to create a safe driving culture. Golden Valley is supporting the effort through extra enforcement. You can help by buckling up, avoiding distractions while driving, and driving sober.

A growing percentage of motorists in Minnesota are buckling up and getting the message to drive sober or get pulled over. Those that buck the trend jeopardize their lives and the lives of other motorists.

## Buckle Up

Before Minnesota's first seat belt law in June 1986, 20 percent of front seat vehicle occupants wore belts. Last year, 95 percent of drivers and front seat passengers were using seat belts.



Each year in Minnesota, fewer than half of occupants killed in motor vehicle crashes are buckled up. According to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, from 2011–2013, just

49 percent of the 816 crash victims killed in Minnesota were known to be belted.

Minnesota law states that drivers and passengers in all seating positions must be buckled up or seated in the correct child restraint. Seat belts must be worn correctly—low and snug across the hips; shoulder straps should never be tucked under an arm or behind the back. Pregnant women should wear the lap belt under the stomach, as low on the hips as possible and against the upper thighs. The shoulder belt should rest between the breasts. Officers will stop and ticket unbelted drivers or passengers in both the front and back seats.

Always buckle up—and insist passengers are belted, too. In a crash, unbelted motorists can slam into and injure or kill others inside a vehicle.

## Use Child Car Seats

In Minnesota, children must be in a child restraint until they are 4 feet 9 inches tall or at least age 8, whichever comes first. As children grow up, the car seats they use need to grow up with them:

- Newborns to at least 1 year old and 20 pounds must ride in rear-facing infant seats, which are recommended up to age 2. It is safest to keep a child rear-facing as long as possible.

- Children from age 2 until around age 4 must ride in forward-facing toddler seats. It's preferable to keep children in a harnessed restraint as long as possible.
- After children outgrow a forward-facing harnessed restraint it is safest if they ride in booster seats until they are 4 feet 9 inches tall or at least age 8, whichever comes first.
- When children can sit with their backs against the seat and have their knees bent comfortably over the vehicle seat edge with feet touching the floor, they can wear seat belts. Children at least 4 feet 9 inches tall can correctly wear a lap/shoulder belt.

The Golden Valley Fire Department provides car seat safety checks for Golden Valley residents by appointment. Contact Steve Baker at 763-593-3977.

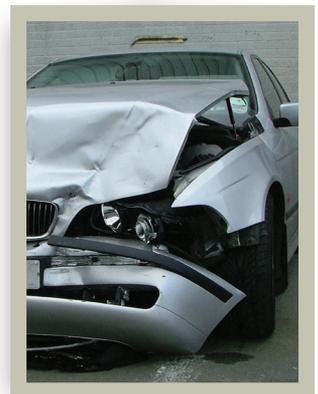
## Plan Ahead For A Sober Ride

DWI arrests have gone down every year since 2006, when law enforcement officers arrested 41,951 drivers in Minnesota for DWI. By 2013 numbers statewide dropped to 25,719, the lowest in Minnesota history.

Still the problem persists. From 2011–2013 there were 279 drunk driving-related traffic deaths in Minnesota—81 people were killed in 2013 alone. In addition, during that time there were 844 alcohol-related serious injuries and 83,958 DWI arrests.

A person is more likely to die in an alcohol-related crash during the holidays than at any other time of the year. Forty percent of traffic deaths during the holidays involve an impaired driver, according to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. To help combat drunk driving, metro area police will be conducting extra DWI enforcement Nov 26–Dec 27.

Plan for a safe ride—designate a sober driver, use a cab/public transportation, or stay at the location of the celebration. Offer to be a designated driver, or be available to pick up a loved one anytime, anywhere. 



# UPCOMING events

## HOLIDAY TEA

Mon, Dec 15 | 1 pm  
Brookview Community Center  
Refreshments and entertainer Jim Berner. Festive attire encouraged. Bring your tea cup. \$9, register by Dec 8.

**GVPD "Toys for Tots" Drive**  
through Dec 18 (see page 16)

**Mailbox to the North Pole**  
through Dec 19

Brookview Community Center  
Drop off letters at Santa Claus' special Direct-to-the-North Pole mailbox at Brookview Community Center. Include full name and address for replies.



**Family Snowshoe Day**  
Tue, Dec 30 | 1-3 pm  
Brookview Golf Course  
Try the wonderful world of snowshoeing on Brookview's new multi-use winter recreation trails. Equipment and education provided by Three Rivers Park District. Free.

More event information at: [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/calendar](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/calendar)

## NEW YEAR'S EVE FAMILY EVENT AT SCHEID PARK

Tue, Dec 31 | 7-10 pm  
Scheid Park, 1856 Toledo Ave N  
Enjoy skating, sledding, and other winter fun activities. Hot chocolate will be provided.

## Brookview Tour De Fat

Sat, Jan 3 | 10 am  
Fat tire bike snow race (see page 6).

## Brookview Picnic Shelter 2014 Reservations

Thur, Jan 9 | 8 am  
Brookview Community Center  
Opening day for Golden Valley residents to reserve Brookview picnic shelters for 2014. In-person-only reservations taken the first hour (8-9 am). Details at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/parks/brookview/shelters.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/parks/brookview/shelters.php).

## Brookview Fat Bike Meltdown Race

Sat, Feb 21 | 10 am  
Fat tire bike snow race (see page 6).



## WEST METRO HOME REMODELING FAIR

Sun, Feb 22 | 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 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](http://www.homeremodelingfair.com).



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[www.goldenvalleymn.gov](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov)



## Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund Donation Form

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send donations to:**  
Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund  
Golden Valley Police Department  
7800 Golden Valley Rd  
Golden Valley, MN 55427

*All donations are tax-deductible.*

## Crime Prevention Fund Supports GVPD

Safety is an important issue in Golden Valley, and we're here to let you know we're doing something about it. The Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund works in partnership with our police department to enhance safety in our community. It is supported by businesses and residents who understand that safety and security are critical factors in thriving communities. We invite you to join us.

In 2014 the Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund supported \$14,000 worth of crime prevention initiatives and community outreach events including Police & Fire in the Parks, Junior Police Academy, Citizen's Academy, Senior Safety Series, Bike Rodeo, MN Night to Unite, Community Bike-Along, Police & Fire Open House, CounterAct, Police Reserve Officer Appreciation, Apartment Managers Networking Luncheon, and the Detective Informant Fund.

Golden Valley is a very safe community. The crime rate is low and your chances of being a victim of crime are small. This is due, in large part, to the excellent men and women of the Golden Valley Police Department and to the strong sense of community people like you have helped develop through involvement in projects like the Crime Prevention Fund.

The demands on our funds have never been greater. We hope you will choose to make a tax-deductible contribution.

*Nancy Azzam, Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund President*



## GVPD's Toy Effort Is In 20th Year



This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Golden Valley Police Department's (GVPD) Toys for Tots donation effort in collaboration with regional law enforcement agencies. 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 in time for the 5 pm news program. This year a small portion of toys will be distributed to local disadvantaged children.

If you want to help, bring new, unwrapped toys to the GVPD at 7800 Golden Valley Road (open 24 hours a day) through Dec 18 at 3 pm. Don't forget gifts for older kids and teens. For more information, contact Lt Steve Johnson at 763-512-2503.

## WATCH THE TOYS FOR TOTS PARADE

Dec 18 | 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.



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.

