



# cityNEWS



## ◦ POLICING TODAY: COMPLEX AND VARIED

The breadth and variety of police contact with the community requires a significant investment in training, and Golden Valley's standards are high.

SEE PAGES 8-9

## 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

A brief history of urban planning outlines its importance to building strong communities.

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## City Increases Emergency Water Supply Fee

Starting Nov 1, Golden Valley utility customers will notice a \$.10 increase (from \$.20 to \$.30/per 1,000 gallons of water used) to the fee in their utility bills labeled “emergency water supply.” This fee helped finance the \$4 million Joint Water Commission (JWC) project to drill and operate emergency wells that can be used if for any reason the Minneapolis water supply becomes unavailable.

The \$.10 fee increase was needed because water consumption decreased overall since the fee was enacted in 2014, resulting in a need for more funding.

The JWC, which includes the Cities of Golden Valley, Crystal, and New Hope, has purchased treated Mississippi river water from Minneapolis for more than 50 years. Costs of JWC projects are shared by the three Cities based on their ratio of water use.

The three JWC Cities use about 7 million gallons of water each day, and water demands have been relatively constant over the past 10 years. In the summer, water demands usually increase dramatically (often up to 17 million gallons each day) when residences and businesses irrigate their lawns. However, two

years of higher than average rainfalls have resulted in a need for less lawn irrigation, and thus, reduced water usage.

### Emergency Water Supply

JWC reservoirs can store 28 million gallons of water, enough to meet each day’s needs for about four days (during normal usage). The JWC built two emergency wells next to the 19-million-gallon reservoir in Crystal and restored an existing well in New Hope.

If the JWC’s existing water supply is compromised, the emergency wells would be able to provide an essential amount of water to the three communities for an indefinite period. Possible examples include contamination of the river, catastrophic damage to one or both of the Minneapolis water plants, or a long drought that dropped river levels to a point where water couldn’t be taken. Water supply emergency and conservation plans are required under Minnesota State Statute (473.89).

If you have questions about the new fee, contact the Finance Department at 763-593-8013. 🌟

## Many Ways To Manage And Pay Your Utility Bill

City of Golden Valley utility bills include charges for water usage, sanitary sewer, street lights, storm drainage, and recycling. Utility bills are mailed quarterly for residential properties and monthly for commercial properties. You can pay by mail, in person, or sign up for automatic payment (must turn in completed form to the City Finance Dept).

City utility customers can also pay and manage utility bills online at <https://eub.goldenvalleymn.gov/>. This service includes

billing, meter reading, and usage history. Online payments made using a credit or debit card are NONRECURRING, meaning you’ll have to enter your credit card information each time you pay.

Keep in mind all payments must be received on or before the date listed (postmark date is not acceptable) to avoid a 10 percent penalty fee.

Detailed information about City utility billing is available on the City website at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/utilities/understanding-bill.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/homeyard/utilities/understanding-bill.php).

Questions? Call the City at 763-593-8013. 🌟



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# City Council Amends Winter Parking Ordinance

At its Sept 6 meeting, the City Council amended the winter parking ordinance to modify the no parking time frame on public streets and alleys to 2–6 am, Nov 1–March 31.

In 2014 the Golden Valley City Council amended the winter parking ordinance to prohibit all parking on public streets and alleys between midnight and 6 am from Nov 1–March 31. The goal was to enable more efficient snow and ice removal operations.

The decision to shorten the no parking time frame was due to resident feedback, including complaints that the parking restrictions were unnecessary and overly prohibitive, as well as appreciation that the plowed streets no longer featured snow-covered parked vehicles. The goal was a less restrictive policy that still satisfied citizen expectations for streets that are plowed curb to curb.

## Parking Regulations & Plowing Operations

In addition to the overnight parking restriction, parking in Golden Valley is prohibited on public streets after a snowfall of at least 2 inches until the snow has stopped falling and the street has been plowed to the curb line. A 2-inch snowfall is the equivalent of a “snow emergency” and the point at which parked cars must be off the streets.

Crews first plow main arterial routes and “through” streets that connect neighborhoods to State and County roads to keep these

roads passable until all City streets can be plowed. During a large snow event the City may plow a street multiple times. Afterwards, crews continue to plow/treat streets for snow and/or ice until they meet City standards.

Ideally, crews plow or treat the streets in the early morning before rush hour. Keeping parked vehicles off the street helps crews efficiently and safely clear the snow. Parked vehicles hamper crews from treating areas of the road, reduce efficiency of plow operations, and result in potential hazards for travelers. 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.

The 2–6 am winter parking restriction would still give City crews an opportunity to perform snow and ice control operations while giving residents a longer time frame in which guest vehicles may be parked in front of their homes. Residents with overnight guests can request a temporary exemption to the parking ordinance by filling out the online “Winter Parking Waiver” form. However, waivers are temporary, and parking is still prohibited on all public streets after a snowfall of at least 2 inches, regardless of the time of day.

You can sign up for Golden Valley winter parking email alerts at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe). 🐾

## City Considers Agreement With Discover St Louis Park

The City of Golden Valley has entered into an agreement with the Discover St Louis Park Convention and Visitors Bureau (DSLPC) and the City of St Louis Park to create a joint Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB). The CVB would work to market and promote Golden Valley, support community growth, stimulate economic development, grow local businesses, and bring in visitors to enjoy Golden Valley’s amenities.

In May the City authorized a marketing and service agreement with DSLPC, which was ratified by the City of St Louis Park in August. At its Sept 6 meeting, Council considered an amendment to the City Code for a new section providing a Local Lodging Tax. MN Statute 469.190, Subdivision 1 authorizes local governments to adopt an ordinance imposing a tax of up to 3 percent

of the gross receipts of lodging at a hotel, motel, rooming house, tourist court, or resort, other than renting or leasing of it for a continuous period of 30 days or more. At least 95 percent of the proceeds obtained from the collection of taxes would be paid to the CVB to provide these marketing and promotional services.

Golden Valley currently has two hotels—Holiday Inn Express, 6051 Golden Hills Drive (117 hotel rooms), and Ramada (formerly Super 8), 6300 Wayzata Blvd (127 hotel rooms).

The Sept 6 public hearing provided the community and local hotels the opportunity to comment. Second consideration of the ordinance was held Sept 20, after this newsletter went to press. 🐾

# Leaf Drop-Off Starts Oct 29

Golden Valley's Fall Leaf Drop-Off provides residents a place to dispose of their leaves at no charge during three late-fall weekends.

The drop-off site will be at Brookview Park, south of Hwy 55 at Winnetka Ave. During drop-off days, Brookview Parkway becomes a one-way road. All traffic must enter the site from Winnetka Ave N and exit on Western Ave. City personnel will direct vehicles to drop-off points, where residents will unload or de-bag leaves.

## Guidelines

- Participants must provide proof of Golden Valley residency (Minnesota driver's license, ID, utility bill, or proof of identity and address).
- Residents must untie leaf bags, de-bag their leaves at the site, and take the bags home for reuse or disposal. No brush or garden waste will be accepted.
- For fast unloading and to conserve your bags, leave them untied. A parking area will be provided for residents to untie their bags before getting in line.
- Residents hauling loose leaves must unload their leaves at the site. (Tip: If you're hauling loose leaves, line the trailer or truck bed with a tarp before loading the leaves. To unload,

lift the corners of the tarp and dump the leaves into the drop-off area.)

**If you miss the Leaf Drop-Off**, contact your garbage hauler for its policies and rates or check the Yellow Pages or online for names of commercial yard waste processing sites. The Maple Grove Yard Waste Site (14796 101st Ave N) accepts leaves, brush, and grass for a fee. For more information, contact the Yard Waste Site directly at 763-420-8971 or visit [www.mgyardwaste.com](http://www.mgyardwaste.com).

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

## 2016 Fall Leaf Drop-Off

**SAT, OCT 29**

8 am–1 pm

**FRI, NOV 4**

8 am–3 pm

**SAT, NOV 5**

8 am–1 pm

**SAT, NOV 12**

7 am–1 pm

**@ Brookview Park**  
(south of Hwy 55 at Winnetka Ave, enter from Winnetka Ave)

## Raking Blitz Helps Those In Need

According to *Birds & Blooms* (May 2014), raking and bagging leaves for two hours will burn 520 calories. This fall improve your health while helping a senior citizen remain independent in their home by volunteering to rake leaves through the Senior Community Services HOME Program, a nonprofit organization serving elders and caregivers statewide.

Volunteers are needed to rake, bag leaves, and take them to the curb. Residents must provide recyclable/compostable leaf bags and arrange for disposal. Exact location depends upon where the senior citizen resides.

**Need help raking?** Contact HOME at 952-746-4046 or [home@seniorcommunity.org](mailto:home@seniorcommunity.org). Raking dates and times will be arranged with the individual homeowners based on volunteer availability.

**To volunteer:** Groups and individuals are welcome. Choose the date(s) and time(s), starting mid-October (depending on weather) until the snow stays. Contact the HOME volunteer coordinator at 952-767-7894 or [scsvolunteer@seniorcommunity.org](mailto:scsvolunteer@seniorcommunity.org) to schedule. Students must be accompanied by an adult. Volunteers should dress for the weather and bring gloves, rakes, and any other equipment needed. 🐾

## Golden Valley Recycles

### GRAY Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 26

### 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.



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

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

# AHHHH, IT'S MIGHTY TIDY DAY

## Dump Or Donate On Oct 8



Join us at the 12th annual **Mighty Tidy Day at Brookview Park Sat, Oct 8, 8 am to 1 pm**, to get rid of mattresses, sofas, broken bicycles, tires, old appliances, computers, televisions, and more. Donation opportunities are also available for furniture, household goods, personal care products, and non-perishable food items. **No hazardous waste (motor oil, asbestos, cleaning solvents, pool chemicals, etc) is accepted.**

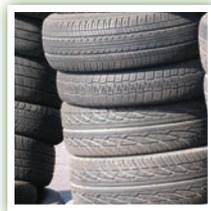


Enter Brookview Parkway from Winnetka Ave N (no entrance will be allowed from Western Ave). Proof of residency will be required at the entrance. Workers will collect the appropriate fee by cash or check and direct you to the right lot (see box below for list of items and fees).



### Donation Station

Bring gently used furniture and household items (see below) for donation to Bridging, a non-profit organization that provides people transitioning out of homelessness and poverty with a one-time gift of quality goods to stabilize and improve lives while effectively using com-



munity resources. A detailed list of needed items is available at [www.bridging.org](http://www.bridging.org). Donations are tax-deductible at the fair market value of each item.

Bridging reserves the right to refuse donations and is unable to accept office furniture, large appliances, computers, audio equipment, sporting goods, infant/child items and toys, lawn/patio furniture and equipment, musical instruments, or holiday items.

### Paper Shredding

Safe and secure destruction of personal documents is one of the best ways to combat identity theft. Bring papers loose in a paper bag (boxes will be returned to you). Staples and paper clips are OK. No binders or plastic material (computer disks, CDs, etc) will be accepted. Available for residents only and not businesses or other commercial enterprises.

### Why Participate?

Aside from the benefits of recycling materials instead of landfilling them, some of these materials contain toxins that threaten public health and the environment, so proper disposal is important. During the 2015 Mighty Tidy Day, the City collected 33 mattresses and 89 appliances, shredded 10,000 lbs of paper, filled four Republic garbage trucks, and filled the Bridging truck with donations. 🐾

If you have questions about *Mighty Tidy Day*, call Public Works at 763-593-8030.

## MIGHTY TIDY DAY Disposal Costs

### Appliances

- If one typical person can carry it (microwave, dehumidifier, mini-refrigerator): \$10/each
- Other (dishwasher, dryer, freezer, range/stove, refrigerator, washing machine, water heater): \$20/each

**Batteries:** Free

**Donations:** Free

**Bridging** is accepting donations of gently used furniture and household goods, such as kitchenware, bedding and linens, lamps, small appliances, etc.

### Electronics/Computers

- Non-Television: \$5/each
- Peripherals (anything that attaches to electronic devices but is not a power source): \$1/each
- Computer Monitors/TVs
  - CRT (old TV): \$15/each
  - Flat Panel: \$10/each

### Fluorescent Bulbs

- CFL (household): \$1/each
- 4-foot long or less: \$1/each
- Longer than 4 feet: \$2/each
- U-bent: \$2/each
- HID lamps: \$5/each

### Miscellaneous Items

- Box Spring/Chair: \$15
- Mattress/Couch: \$20
- Misc (trash, construction debris, etc): \$20/cubic yard, \$10/half cubic yard (no concrete/cement, hazardous materials)

**Paper Shredding:** \$1/paper bag or banker's box

### Scrap Metal

- Clean metal: Free
- Other (bikes, etc): \$5/each (no exercise bikes or treadmills)

### Tires

- With rims: \$7/each;
- Without rims: \$5/each

# Recreation Highlights

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

## Youth

**Youth Open Gym** (ages 6–17)—Wed, 6–8 pm, Davis Community Center. Shoot hoops, practice ball handling, or play a pick-up game. \$4/person/\$28 10-punch pass.

## Adult

**Adult Boot Camp**—Thurs evenings at Davis Community Center, Oct 13–Dec 22, \$50. Register online.

**Tai Chi For Health and Arthritis—Basic**—Tues mornings at Brookview Community Center, Oct 25–Dec 13, \$45. Register online.

## Seniors

**Monday Matters**—10–11:15 am, Brookview. Oct 20: “Estate Planning.” Nov 17: “Be Wise, Be Informed, Be Empowered.”

**Coffee Talk**—9:45–11 am, Brookview. Oct 26: “Spring Flowering Bulbs.” Register two days in advance at 763-512-2345.

## Special Events

**Brookview Community Center Groundbreaking**—Oct 5, 5:30 pm. Brookview Community Center (south end of parking lot).

**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 Will Be Open During Construction

## Programs Continue, Rentals On Hold

Aside from a few parking rearrangements, a redirected entrance into the building, and an early season closing of the driving range, Brookview Community Center will offer its recreation and golf programs uninterrupted during the construction of the new building.

“We hope residents participate in community center programs like they have in the past. We just ask that they be a little patient,” says Rick Birno, director of parks and recreation.

Because the new community center is being built south of the existing structure, which won’t be torn down until the replacement is ready, Brookview’s ongoing programs can continue as usual while construction progresses. However, Brookview will not rent out its space for weddings or other special events until construction is complete. This is largely for aesthetic reasons.

“A construction zone doesn’t make the best atmosphere for a wedding,” Birno says.

All of Brookview’s winter activities, such as cross country skiing, disc golf, and fat-tire biking, will continue as normal, says Ben Disch, golf operations manager. Even the Brookview Grill will remain open seven days a week throughout the process.

“We’ll be here, and we’ll be open,” Disch says.

Once construction begins this fall, residents will not be able to use Brookview’s south entrance. A temporary, ADA certified ramp will be built on the north side of the building to allow access to the second floor.

The ground breaking for the new building will be Oct 5 at 5:30 pm, and the project is scheduled to be completed by mid-summer 2018.

## Background

Brookview’s original building, which dates to the 1920s, has been expanded and remodeled several times over the years. Recently, City officials found it unfeasible to continue investing in maintenance of an aging structure rather than invest in a new facility that serves the needs of today’s Golden Valley.

The replacement process began in 2014 and included a feasibility study and design proposal; work by a City Council-appointed a citizen task force to focus on vision, guiding principles, and potential program areas; and public input. In November 2015, the City Council authorized staff to move forward on a proposed design for a 37,000-square-foot building to be constructed just south of the existing 19,000-square-foot community center. 



HRC Conversations

Three major trends are shaping Minnesota and Golden Valley as we move into the future: population shifts, aging, and growing diversity. The Golden Valley Human Rights Commission's (HRC) goal is to encourage dialogue about what this means in a three-part series. This is the second of three articles.

# Golden Valley Prepares For Population Age Increase

It's no secret the baby boomers, who by far make up the USA's most populous generation, are entering retirement age at record numbers. Golden Valley, Minnesota, and the entire nation will see unprecedented increases in the 65+ age group over the next few decades, with Golden Valley facing an aging increase even larger than Minnesota's overall average.

By 2020, it is predicted that Minnesota will have more residents age 65+ than school-age children. Currently in Golden Valley, 30 percent of the population is age 45–64, with 20 percent age 65 or older.

An aging population affects a wide number of areas for a community, including transportation, care-giving, health care, social support needs, long-term care, labor force, recreation, and housing, says Tim Cruikshank, City manager.

“Do we have enough town homes? Assisted living apartments? Senior facilities? This is what we need to be thinking about,” Cruikshank adds. “Do we have the infrastructure that allows people to stay here as they age?”

Another top concern is mobility, says Jason Zimmerman, planning manager. Bus and train services, sidewalks, pedestrian plans—will Golden Valley have the kind of public transportation facilities to meet the needs of people who are increasingly driving less on their own?

“We have to be thinking ahead about these questions,” he says. “This is a central topic for Golden Valley.”

The City has looked at how neighboring cities have responded to the aging population shift and listened to feedback on what

senior citizens want, Zimmerman says. This includes exploring the option of more assisted living apartment buildings and town homes to accommodate the number of seniors moving out of their single-family houses. It is also conducting a housing study to better understand future needs.

These shifting trends aren't bad, Zimmerman says; they just create a number of unknowns. For example, people aging out of single-family homes could mean an influx of families with children moving in, which would bring more students to the local school system. So the City may need to plan for a simultaneous spike in both an older and a younger population.

“It's all about the ebbs and flows,” Zimmerman says.

The 10-year Comprehensive Plan process (see story on page 13) provides an opportunity for the City to study how demographics affect future needs, including regional growth and the long-term vision of the community. The resulting plan guides Golden Valley for the next 10 to 30 years. 

Watch the November/December newsletter for a story about growing diversity.

## Minnesota By The Numbers

Statistics according to the  
Minnesota State Demographic Center

**45** | Median age in  
Golden Valley

**38** | Median age in  
Minnesota

**32** | Median age in  
Minneapolis

**285,000**

Projected increase of  
people 65 or older for  
current decade

**91,000**

Increase for past decade

**More  
than  
1 in 5**

Number of  
Minnesotans  
who will be  
age 65+ by  
2030

**49%**

Projected increase in people age  
65+ between 2015 and 2030



# ..... Policing Today

## .....○ Unpredictable Days Require Ongoing Training

**P**olicing today is more complex than ever before. On any given day, an officer could deal with an armed robbery, a car crash, an emergency medical situation, a fire, a fraud, or just an out-of-control party. Or the officers might attend a City festival, open house, visit a park, teach a public safety class, or bike the streets to get to know residents better. It's impossible to predict exactly how an officer's day will play out. And because of the breadth and variety of police contact with the community, it's in everyone's best interest to make significant investments in their training.

This involves a three-pronged approach, says Golden Valley Police Chief Jason Sturgis. **Primary training** focuses on teaching a skill set to an individual. **Succession training** is about experienced officers passing on their knowledge to new officers. **Community outreach** gives all officers the opportunity to share their knowledge with the public and build bonds that ultimately result in a safer community.

"It's such an important part of what we do," says Sturgis, a former use-of-force instructor. "The goal is not just to develop an officer's skill set, but to also impart confidence in those skills. When officers are confident in the things that they can do, they're more apt to make better decisions, and they're calmer under pressure."

The high-pressure situations that turn out best are those where the officers fall back on their training, he adds.

### Primary Training

From the first day on the job, every new Golden Valley police officer goes through months of training. Hiring a new recruit

can be a more-than-30-year investment for the City, so the vetting and training processes are particularly strict and thorough, says Police Commander Steve Johnson.

"Most people don't know just how much we've invested in an officer by the time they're on the streets," Johnson says.

Before the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) even considers a candidate, he or she must have a state license. This requires a two-year degree in law enforcement, unless the applicant has police experience in another state. Candidates must pass the Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training test, which caps off the two-year law enforcement program. They must also have a clean driving record and have no felony arrests or any charges relating to domestic assault.

Once candidates successfully clear these initial screening hurdles, they take an 80- to 90-hour two-week classroom course covering topics including use-of-force, hand gun and



long gun use, hands-on defensive tactics, Taser use, report writing, policy, and local geography.

The next step for new officers is 16 weeks of field training, a process broken into five phases. The first phase is like a ride-along, Johnson says, where recruits observe more experienced officers. By the fifth phase, the experienced officers hang back and let the recruits work the beat, stepping in only if something goes wrong.

Then, with six months of training under their belts, the new officers are finally sent out on their own, though they still must make it through a year-long probation period and take refresher courses every year after that.

When it comes to use-of-force, Golden Valley police officers are trained to use the least amount of force necessary to gain control in a situation. Types of force can range from verbal commands to use of firearms.

## Passing The Torch

It's not just the recruits who learn and gain experience from all this training. It's good for the trainers, too, Sturgis says. When veteran officers share their experience with newcomers, it can benefit both parties as well as set up a succession framework within the department.

"You think you know what you know, but when you have to explain it to somebody else, it forces you to flesh out the details," Sturgis explains. "During that process, you begin to understand the concepts on an even deeper level than the first time around."

This is one of the reasons it's important to train officers not just for the day-to-day trials of the job, but also to teach them to become trainers themselves, Sturgis says. You know you've done a good job as a trainer when those you've taught can effectively step into the trainer role later on.

## Building Community

Community outreach educates the public about crime prevention and provides another way for officers to get to know the residents and build relationships, Sturgis says. Combined with training, this strengthens the department and its ability to serve Golden Valley the best it can.

Programs like the annual Citizen's Academy teach the community about law enforcement and how the GVPD operates. Others, like Neighborhood Watch and the Public Safety Open House, teach residents how to stay safe and work with the police to prevent or reduce crime. Yet others, like Public Safety In The Parks, Coffee With A Cop, and the Police Bike-Along, are fun events designed to build relationships with residents. And programs like Shop With A Cop and the annual Toys For Tots drive allow the officers to work with the community to further serve residents in need.

"We take pride in what we do, we take our job of serving the community very seriously, and we understand that training is the key for us to provide that service," says Sturgis.

For more information about the GVPD and its programs, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/police/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/police/index.php). 

# CON ARTISTS ARE TARGETING YOU

If you get a call from someone claiming to be with the IRS, hang up the phone and don't call back. It's a scam. The IRS will never contact you by phone. Only by mail.

These days, with all the personal information we voluntarily put online, conning people through methods like the IRS scam has never been easier, says Joanne Paul, Golden Valley crime analyst.

Con artists have a number of tools at their disposal to be convincing imposters, including technology that can trick caller ID to make it look like the call is coming from a local number, a family member, or legitimate business.

Facebook and other online data also allow scammers to learn about you and your family and then use that information against you.

Paul says phone and email scams have cost Golden Valley victims anywhere from \$500 to \$5,000 and, sometimes, a stolen identity, the cost of which can be immeasurable.

"Most of these scams are being perpetrated from outside the country, so it's hard for law enforcement to go after these crimes," Paul says. The best thing you can do is not fall for the scams in the first place and be especially wary if you weren't the one to initiate contact.

Below Paul outlines some common scams that have been reported to the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) over the last few years and how to protect yourself from them.

## BE AWARE OF COMMON SCAMS

**Grandparent Scam**—The grandparent scam involves someone calling a senior citizen and claiming to be a grandchild who, for example, has been arrested on a trip to Mexico and needs money wired to make bail. The imposter has researched the grandparent to get as much personal information as possible to effectively sell the lie. Afterwards, victims often say they could have sworn they were talking to their actual grandchild.

"They're con artists. This is what they do for a living, and they're really good at it," Paul says. "They're starting to con people who never thought they would fall for it and be a victim."

If you get a call like this, immediately call other members of your family and confirm the claims.

**Bill Payment Scam**—In this scam, someone posing as a utility company contacts a small business claiming a recent bill payment failed to process and demanding immediate cash payment or the utility will be shut off. The scammer generally requires people to pay using a Green Dot prepaid debit card, which can be purchased at a convenience store and then used to wire money.

A legitimate utility company would never ask you to pay cash immediately, Paul says. If you get a call asking for cash or for money to be wired right away, that's a huge red flag. Hang up and contact the utility company directly.

**Medical Alert Scam**—In the medical alert scam, scammers posing as sales reps offer a free service or device, such as a medical alert bracelet, in exchange for personal information. Once they get that information, they use it to steal the victim's identity. Never give out personal information over the phone unless you initiate the call and you know you're dealing with a legitimate and reputable company.

## LIMIT YOUR INFORMATION SHARING

"Limit access to your information," Paul adds. "When someone asks for vital information, like social security numbers, make sure they have a legitimate reason to need it."

Also, be careful about what you share on social media and make sure your online profiles are secure.

## PROTECT YOURSELF

Be aware of the main types of scams, and never wire money without double and triple checking identities. If you fall victim to one of these scams, call the GVPD and also report the crime online at [ic3.gov](http://ic3.gov).

"People work hard for their money, and they should work just as hard to protect their money, and not take everything at face value," Paul says.

To receive copies of privacy protection guidelines, contact Paul at 763-593-8058 or [jpaul@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:jpaul@goldenvalleymn.gov).

## GVPD Has Medicine Disposal Drop Box

Since it was installed June 22, 2016, the medicine disposal drop box in the lobby of the Golden Valley Police Department has collected more than 350 lbs of pills, says Police Chief Jason Sturgis. "This is a great program to help get those products safely off the streets," he adds.

The drop box is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 7700 Golden Valley Rd and is under constant surveillance. Items accepted include controlled substances, vitamins, and prescription, over-the-counter, and pet medicines. No syringes, sharps, or other medical waste are accepted.



# THREE TIPS TO KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE

As you prepare your home for winter, think about ways you can keep it, and you, safe. The Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) offers these important tips.



## PREVENT FIRES FROM SPREADING: KEEP DOORS CLOSED

One of the easiest things anyone can do to help prevent a fire from destroying their home is to keep interior doors closed. This compartmentalizes the space, which makes it harder for a fire to spread and allows more time for you to get out of the house and for firefighters to arrive on scene, says Stephen Baker, GVFD battalion chief.

Two recent Golden Valley fires were significantly minimized thanks to doors being closed.

“A disaster was averted because the residents had their utility room door closed,” says Baker. “That helped keep the fire contained and cut off its flow of oxygen.”

Baker adds that it’s good to make a habit of sleeping with doors shut, especially doors leading to utility rooms, and to close all the doors in the house before heading out.

“It’s just one more way to protect yourself, your family and your home.”

## CHECK YOUR FURNACE

Right now, before the cold really sets in, is the time to test run your furnace, says Baker. If your furnace is leaking carbon monoxide, it’s better to find out during a test run than after turning your furnace on during the first major cold snap, he says.

“Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning is entirely too dangerous to be casual about it,” Baker says. “At a minimum, on a day when everybody is up, change your filter, make sure your CO alarms are working properly, and fire up your furnace to see if it’s functioning properly. Better yet, have a professional come and inspect it.”



## WATCH FOR CARBON MONOXIDE, A SILENT KILLER

CO is an odorless, colorless, poisonous gas created by burning fuel. Sources include appliances used for heating and cooking and vehicles running in attached garages. Today’s energy-efficient homes can also trap CO-polluted air inside.

Symptoms of CO poisoning include headaches, weakness, sleepiness, nausea, vomiting, confusion, and disorientation.

To limit CO, have all natural gas appliances, heating systems, vents, chimneys, and flues inspected and, if necessary, cleaned by a qualified technician every year. Provide adequate outdoor air for your furnace and water heater. It is unlawful to install an unvented fireplace in Minnesota.

Place CO detectors within 10 feet of all sleeping rooms or within each separate sleeping room. If you have a multi-level home, place a detector on each level. One detector is usually adequate for 1,200 to 1,500 square feet of living space. 



# City Crews To Trim Boulevard Trees

Every year City crews trim a small percentage of boulevard trees during the dormant period of mid-November to late April. Trimming during this time frame prevents disease and infestations. The Emerald Ash Borer beetles, for example, are active from around May 1 to Sept 30, and removal of ash trees is not recommended during this time.

Regular trimming removes dead or broken branches, ensures young trees don't grow in ways that disrupt traffic or pedestrians, and helps the trees maintain structural integrity as they mature.

"Many people don't realize that if certain branch architecture is not corrected today, it can cause big problems 10 or 15 years from now," says Tim Teynor, City forester. Without structural pruning, a young tree can grow to be unstable, lopsided, and more susceptible to breakage during a storm, and its branches may hang too low over streets and sidewalks.

Before any tree trimming occurs, the City sends letters to residents informing them of what will be trimmed in their neighborhood and why.

If residents don't want City crews to trim their boulevard trees, they must provide someone else to do it for them, Teynor says.

## Tips For Hiring A Tree Contractor

Hiring a tree removal or trimming contractor deserves the same consideration and caution that goes into selecting a doctor or

home builder. A mistake can be expensive and long lasting, but the right choice can assure health, beauty, and a longer life for your trees.

- Ask friends and neighbors for recommendations, or search the phone directory or online under Trees or Tree Service.
- Beware of door-knockers. Most reputable companies have all the work they can handle without going door-to-door.
- Ask for certificates of insurance, including proof of liability for personal and property damage and worker's compensation. Call the insurance company to make certain the policy is current. Under some circumstances, you can be held financially responsible if an uninsured worker is hurt on your property.
- Ask for references and talk with former clients. Experience, education, and a good reputation are signs of a good arborist.
- Have more than one arborist look at your job and give you estimates. Don't expect one contractor to lower a bid to match another's, and be willing to pay for the estimate if necessary. Three or more cost estimates are worth the effort.

Ask if the arborist will use climbing spikes. A good arborist will not use climbing spikes if the tree is to remain in the landscape.

Questions? Contact Teynor at 763-593-3976. 

## Douglas Drive Construction Remains On Track

Work along Douglas Dr continues, with crews constructing the new road, sidewalks, and trails between Duluth St and Medicine Lake Rd this fall. In the coming weeks, work will progress to:

- completing reconstruction of Duluth St
- constructing the roundabout at Sandburg Rd
- building new retaining walls near Medicine Lake Rd
- installing curb and gutter, as well as paving and striping Douglas Dr north of Duluth St
- finishing new sidewalks and trails between Duluth St and Medicine Lake Rd

In total, more than 9,100 feet of storm and sanitary sewer pipes are being replaced, along with another 8,000 feet of water main. Replacing these pipes is important to maintain high quality water and sewer service that meets the latest environmental and health safety standards.

In addition, crews are replacing 7,500 feet of gas main. Overhead wires and utility poles previously lining the corridor between

Duluth St and Medicine Lake Rd have also been replaced by wires buried underground.

This first phase of the project—from Duluth St to Medicine Lake Rd—is expected to be complete by the end of construction season this fall. The next phase will extend from Duluth St to Hwy 55, with work occurring throughout 2017.

Douglas Dr remains closed to through traffic between Duluth St and Medicine Lake Rd. The signed detour follows Hwy 55, Winnetka Ave (County Rd 156) and Medicine Lake Rd (County Rd 70). You can still travel around the construction area, including to get to local businesses, but please allow for extra time and remember to slow down through the area.

For more information and to sign up for regular updates, visit the project website at [www.hennepin.us/douglasdrive](http://www.hennepin.us/douglasdrive). You may also call the project hotline at 612-543-3485 or email [douglasdrive@hennepin.us](mailto:douglasdrive@hennepin.us). 



# 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

## Urban Planning: A Brief History

At a certain point in the history of urban development, municipalities began to realize just how important it was to plan ahead. Although this seems like common sense now, until the early 1900s cities paid little attention toward future planning, creating patchwork systems that fell apart at the seams, says Jason Zimmerman, Golden Valley planning manager.

### Public Health Needs

Comprehensive planning first arose out of efforts to manage sanitation, garbage, and water supply. Major problems developed when sewer systems couldn't keep up with population growth, creating a number of public health concerns.

"If you're not tracking, projecting, and managing overall growth, it can lead to disasters," Zimmerman says. "The city becomes overbuilt for what the sewer system can handle, so there's breaks and back-ups. It's the same thing for transportation. If you're not thinking about what the impacts might be over the long run, you'll get gridlock."

### Cohesive Design

In addition to sanitation and functionality, people at the turn of the century also started to put more thought toward the potential beauty of cities and the value in planning for architectural cohesion.

In the 1920s, State enabling legislation gave local governments the power to plan comprehensively. Minnesota created planning laws in the 1950s and 1960s. Golden Valley adopted its first official land use plan document in 1959. Since then, the Comprehensive Plan has become an all-encompassing tool that guides Golden Valley's growth and redevelopment.

Today, Minnesota metro area cities are required by law to develop comprehensive plans that look 10 to 30 years into the future. They must update their plans every 10 years and address alignment with regional systems overseen by the Metropolitan Council, but they can go further to tackle other issues related to the long-term vision of the community, Zimmerman says. Right now, an issue facing Golden Valley is its aging population, the implications of which are being considered closely for the 2040 Comp Plan (see story on page 7).

### Metropolitan Council

The Metropolitan Council was created by State legislation in 1967 to deal with environmental contamination. Its role expanded over time to include transit, regional parks and trails, population growth, affordable housing, and more.

State law requires the Met Council to create regional plans and policies to guide growth and manage systems for transportation, aviation, water resources, and parks in the seven county metro area. For this Comp Plan update, the Met Council used census data to forecast population growth and capacity needs through 2040.

### Golden Valley's 2040 Comp Plan Process

Through its Comp Plan process, City staff will keep residents in the loop with several opportunities to contribute to the future design and development of Golden Valley. Citizens can fill out an online survey and track the project at the City's 2040 Comprehensive Plan website at [bit.ly/GV2040CompPlan](http://bit.ly/GV2040CompPlan). To sign up for ongoing Comp Plan updates, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe).



Economic Competitiveness  
Parks  
Housing  
Transportation  
Land Use  
Sustainability  
Water Resources

# Safely Navigate By Vehicle, Bicycle, And Foot

Driver, pedestrian, and bike safety measures are always important to keep in mind. Below are tips for being as safe as you can be on the road, no matter what your mode of transportation.



## DRIVERS

- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and at intersections.
- Be prepared to stop at all marked crosswalks and intersections. Remember, intersections are legal crosswalks even if they are not marked. Stay alert and reduce speed in areas with pedestrians.
- Be alert for bicyclists and skateboarders who may approach crosswalks more swiftly than pedestrians.
- Come to a complete stop if pedestrians are crossing or preparing to cross.
- Wait until pedestrians have crossed at least one lane past the lane you are in before resuming travel.
- Never pass another vehicle that has stopped or is slowing down at a crosswalk.



## BICYCLISTS

- Yield to pedestrians when riding on the street or on a sidewalk.
- Remember that bicyclists are not considered pedestrians unless they are walking their bikes. Otherwise, they are considered vehicles and forfeit their rights as pedestrians in the case of an accident or citation.
- Use marked bike paths or multi-use paths when available.
- Obey vehicular traffic signals and laws on the roadways.
- Use extra caution as you transition between bike paths, roads, and sidewalks. Be aware that your actions are unpredictable to drivers and pedestrians.



## PEDESTRIANS

- Always cross at marked crosswalks or intersections. You forfeit your rights as a pedestrian if you cross elsewhere.
- Obey pedestrian signals and look left-right-left to make sure the road is clear in both directions before crossing.
- If a vehicle approaches, make eye contact with the driver to be sure s/he sees you before you cross.
- Look before crossing in front of stopped vehicles. Do not cross just because a driver waves you on.
- Remember that bicyclists are not considered pedestrians unless they are walking their bikes. Otherwise, they are considered vehicles.

## ROUNDBABOUTS: A Safe Alternative

Roundabouts have become fairly common across the country and in the Twin Cities metro area, and soon there will be two more. Hennepin County and the City of Golden Valley are building roundabouts at two locations along Douglas Dr—at the intersections with Golden Valley Rd and Sandburg Rd.

The modern roundabout is a circular intersection where traffic travels counterclockwise around a center island. They are used to safely organize flow through busy intersections and are different from neighborhood traffic circles and rotaries.

Several benefits make roundabouts a great alternative to traditional intersection controls.

First and foremost, they improve safety. All vehicles come from one direction. If conflicts occur they are at slow speeds rather than right angle or head on crashes that result in the most serious injuries. In addition, single lane roundabouts are safe for bikes and pedestrians who can cross one lane at a time.

They also reduce congestion. If there are no conflicting vehicles, drivers may proceed through the intersection at reduced speeds with minimal delay. No more back-ups at red lights.

They also reduce pollution, fuel consumption, and vehicle wear by reducing idling and hard accelerating.

Finally, operation and maintenance costs for roundabouts are lower compared to traditional traffic signals.

Douglas Dr reconstruction will be finished in fall 2017. 🏡

*Single lane roundabouts reduce the number of vehicular conflict points at intersections.*

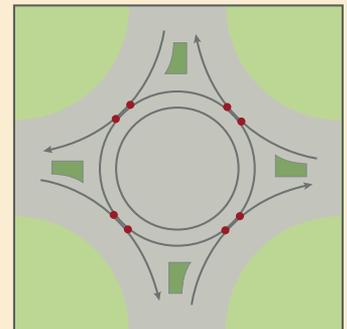


ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF US DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

# UPCOMING events

## Brookview Community Center Groundbreaking

Wed, Oct 5 | 5:30 pm  
(see page 6)

## Mighty Tidy Day

Sat, Oct 8 | 8 am–1 pm (see page 5)

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ANNUAL MEETING

Wed, Oct 12 | 7 pm  
**Golden Valley Public Safety Building**  
One of two annual Neighborhood Watch meetings per year. Includes a crime prevention refresher, an update on crime patterns and trends in Golden Valley, and more. More information at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/police/watch/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/police/watch/index.php).

## Annual Leaf Drop-Off

Three Oct & Nov weekends (see page 4)

## Fall Raking Blitz

Mid-October until the snow stays, (see page 4)

## General Election

Tue, Nov 8 (see pages 3 and 16)

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

## SHOP WITH A COP

November through early December

This Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) community outreach program, in partnership

with Noble School, provides children from families in need with Target gift cards to be used for family gifts. Children spend an evening shopping with cops and staff, followed by dinner and gift-wrapping at the GVPD. Donations accepted at the GVPD through November.



## GVPD Toys For Tots Collection

Starts Dec 2 | Golden Valley Police Department

Annual GVPD toy collection culminates in a parade to the KARE 11 Toys For Tots drop site. Bring new, unwrapped toys as well as gifts for older kids and teens.

## SUPPER WITH SANTA

Fri, Dec 2 | 6–7:15 pm  
**Brookview Community Center**

Pizza, music, and a visit from Santa! Ages 2 and up with adult. Must pre-register (\$10/child, \$5/adult dinner).

## GHOULISH GOLF

October 20–31  
**Brookview Par 3**

Visit [www.brookviewgolf.com/par3/junior-and-family-events.html](http://www.brookviewgolf.com/par3/junior-and-family-events.html)

The spirits are summoning you to Brookview for a spooky round of golf. Try out the Haunted Hill, the Batwing Bunker, the Sand Witch Trap, and more. Big pumpkin-faced putting cups on the greens will make it fun for kids and beginners. Free rental clubs and golf balls available. Fee: \$12.50/person or \$7/person if you're wearing any Halloween or orange clothing or are in costume. Book a tee time at 763-512-2330.





7800 Golden Valley Road  
Golden Valley, MN 55427

763-593-8000  
763-593-3968 TTY

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

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# ELECTION DAY

\*\*\*\*\*

## VOTE IN YOUR PRECINCT

- ★ **PRECINCT 1A:**  
NE Fire Station  
3700 Golden Valley Rd
- ★ **PRECINCT 2A:**  
Valley Presbyterian Church  
3100 North Lilac Dr
- ★ **PRECINCT 3C:**  
Meadowbrook School  
5430 Glenwood Ave
- ★ **PRECINCT 4:**  
LOGIS  
5750 Duluth St
- ★ **PRECINCT 5C:**  
SE Fire Station  
400 Turners Crossroad S
- ★ **PRECINCT 6:**  
Golden Valley City Hall  
7800 Golden Valley Rd
- ★ **PRECINCT 7B:**  
Sandburg Learning Center  
2400 Sandburg Lane
- ★ **PRECINCT 8B:**  
Brookview Community Center  
200 Brookview Parkway

For 2016 the general election day is Nov 8. Polls are open 7 am–8 pm.

# Get Ready To Vote Nov 8

For the Nov 8 general election, you may only vote in person at your assigned polling place (see sidebar) or vote absentee ahead of time.

### Absentee Voting Started Sept 23

Absentee voting means voting by mail or in person before Election Day instead of at the polling place. Absentee ballots are available 46 days before an election. Under a 2014 state law change, voters no longer have to state a specified reason in order to receive and cast an absentee ballot. You will need to fill out an application to vote absentee.

**ONLINE**—You can apply online through the Minnesota Secretary of State’s website at [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org). The service allows voters to apply for an absentee ballot quickly and easily without the need to print, scan forms, and return by mail, fax, or email.

**BY MAIL**—Send your completed absentee ballot application to Hennepin County Elections by mail (Hennepin County Elections - PSL 012 Government Center, 300 6th St S, Minneapolis, MN 55487), fax (612-348-2151), or email ([hc.vote@hennepin.us](mailto:hc.vote@hennepin.us)).

**IN PERSON**—You may apply and vote at Golden Valley City Hall during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8 am–4:30 pm). Extended absentee voting hours are available on the Saturday and Monday before the election (Nov 5, 10 am–3 pm, and Nov 7 until 5 pm).

### Voter Registration

You will need to register if you have never registered to vote, changed your name, moved to a different address (even if only your apartment number has changed), or have not voted in four years. You may register on Election Day at your polling place with required information to prove your residency. Visit [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org) or the Golden Valley website ([www.goldenvalleymn.gov/elections/voting.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/elections/voting.php)) for a list of the requirements for Election Day registration.

Get more information about voting and elections at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/elections](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/elections). Questions? Contact City Clerk Kris Luedke at 763-593-8012.

★★★  
**MNVOTES.ORG**  
Am I registered to vote?  
What is the status of my absentee ballot?  
And more!



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.

