



# cityNEWS



## ◦ THE NEW BROOKVIEW! SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

From the Grand Opening celebration Dec 1 to the official first day of business Dec 2, the new Brookview will offer an array of events and activities for the entire community to enjoy.

**SEE PAGES 6-7**

## “SUBURBAN EVOLUTION”

The theme for the City’s 2040 Comprehensive Plan reflects feedback from residents during the citizen input process.

**SEE PAGES 8-9**

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## Council Considers 2018 Tax Levy Increase

At its Sept 19 meeting, the Golden Valley City Council certified a preliminary 2018 tax levy of \$22,420,742, an increase of 4.13 percent. This 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, along with local government aid, make up the rest. For 2018, Golden Valley's local government aid was decreased by \$215,275, which means a \$15 per year tax increase on the median home.

Of the proposed total tax levy for 2018, \$17,428,460 is allocated to the General Fund for operations (police, fire, inspections, streets, parks and recreation, administration, transfers, etc), \$3,773,982 is allocated for bond payments (for street improvements), and \$1,218,300 is allocated for bond payments for Brookview (see page 6 for more information about Brookview). The table at right shows the difference between the 2017 and 2018 levies.

In a move to lessen future reliance on bonded debt, equipment certificates will be covered by transfers from the General Fund. Transfers also help fund a portion of street overlays and improvements to buildings and parks. For 2018, transfers will increase by \$250,000.

Due to the many changes in property values, the tax impact will vary for each property. This year the property value

increases shift more of the tax burden to residential property owners. The City portion of taxes on the \$289,000 median home is expected to increase by \$138, or \$11.50/month. Hennepin County mailed individual property tax statements Nov 13 to all Golden Valley properties.

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, or 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](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/budget). Questions? Call Finance Director Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010. 

	Actual 2017	Proposed 2018
<b>General Fund Levy<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>\$ 14,998,330</b>	<b>\$ 17,428,460</b>
<b>Street Improvement Bonds<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$ 4,465,375</b>	<b>\$ 3,773,982</b>
<b>Brookview Bonds<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>\$ 1,218,300</b>	<b>\$ 1,218,300</b>
<b>Equipment Certificates<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>\$ 849,398</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>Total Levy</b>	<b>\$ 21,531,403</b>	<b>\$ 22,420,742</b>

## Golden Valley Elects Rosenquist And Fonnest

The Golden Valley City Council will have one new member and one returning incumbent when it reconvenes Jan 2, 2018.

In the Nov 7 City election, Gillian Rosenquist and Larry Fonnest defeated three other candidates (John Giese, Jim Ryan, and Andy Schuler) to fill two four-year Council terms. Current Council member Andy Snope did not seek reelection.

Rosenquist has lived in Golden Valley for 15 years and has previously practiced intellectual property law and worked for

a legal nonprofit. She has served on the City's Open Space and Recreation Commission since 2012 and is involved in multiple community and school organizations. She has a JD degree from William Mitchell College of Law.

Fonnest returns for a second term on the Council. He has lived in Golden Valley for 21 years, is a retired business owner, and previously served on the City's Board of Zoning Appeals as well as on numerous governor appointed commissions focused on community service and youth development. Fonnest has a degree in political science and a masters' degree in natural resource management from the University of Minnesota. 



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# City Seeks Ways To Ensure Affordable Housing

As the 2040 Comprehensive Plan takes shape, the City of Golden Valley is making housing a top priority to ensure it stays ahead of the curve when it comes to providing a welcoming and diverse housing market. This means addressing the complex matter of affordability.

“With its strong schools, major-employers, and close proximity to downtown Minneapolis, Golden Valley is a highly desirable place to live,” says Emily Goellner, associate planner/grant writer. “Home prices appreciated rapidly over the past decade, which, on one hand, builds wealth for homeowners and strengthens the City’s tax base. On the other hand, it means new apartments and new single-family homes are being priced at some of the highest levels in the region.”

Many households in Golden Valley are cost burdened, meaning they pay more than one-third of their income on rent. Some are severely cost burdened, meaning they pay more than half of their income on rent. Such prices can create distress for existing residents, block out other potential residents, and result in a less sustainable economy.

Research shows that mixed income communities are a key component in building economic vitality and competitiveness. Providing adequate affordable housing allows residents at various income levels to stay within the community as their housing needs or preferences change, Goellner says.

As part of 2040 Comprehensive Plan update, the City conducted a community-wide assessment of housing supply, demand, policies, incentives, and regulations. This information will help the City implement two primary strategies to ensure affordable housing.

First, the City will work with local developers to reserve a portion of new units for low- or moderate-income residents. While this strategy has worked well in many cities throughout the country, it’s a relatively new but quickly expanding concept in the Twin Cities metro region. The City’s newly developed Mixed Income Housing Policy will help it meet short-term and long-term housing goals.

Second, the City will work to preserve existing affordable housing. Several existing apartment buildings, generally those built between the 1950s and 1990s, are affordable to many low- and moderate-income families. The City wants to ensure these buildings continue to offer safe, reliable, affordable housing for residents. Planners will work with property owners, landlords, affordable housing advocates, and partners who offer funding resources to better understand how these buildings can stay affordable to current residents.

“This is not an issue that popped up overnight,” Goellner says. “Nor can it be solved overnight, especially with just one solution, policy, or program. That’s why the City is taking a comprehensive approach.” 🌈

## OPERATION: RESCUE ROOM

*The West Metro Home Remodeling Fair is looking for ugly rooms that need rescuing.*

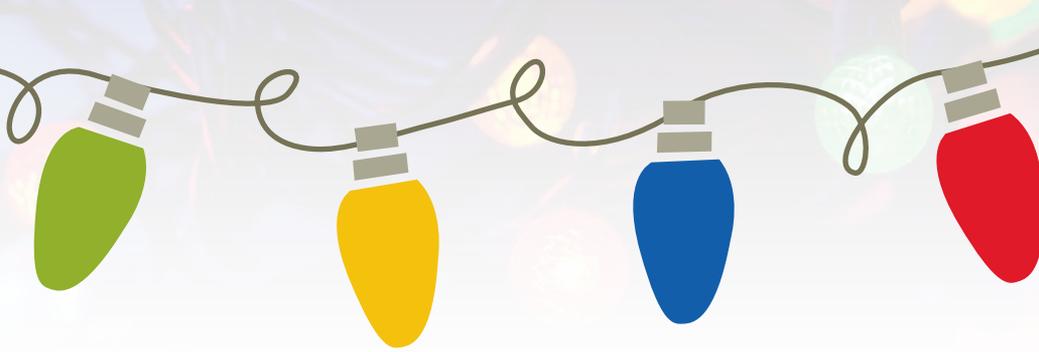
*Win \$1,000 for your remodeling project.*

*Rules and entry forms at [www.homeremodelingfair.com/fair-day-activities/operation-rescue-room/](http://www.homeremodelingfair.com/fair-day-activities/operation-rescue-room/).  
Deadline to enter is Feb 5.*

*Do you have the  
baddest bathroom  
in the west metro?*



*The cruddiest  
kitchen in the  
county?*



## 5 Reasons To Replace Your Old Holiday Lights With LEDs

As your old holiday string lights burn out, consider making the switch to far more energy efficient LED lights. According to the US Department of Energy, widespread use of LED lighting has the greatest potential impact on energy savings in the United States. By 2027, widespread use of LEDs could save the equivalent annual electrical output of 44 large electric power plants, for a total savings of more than \$30 billion at today's electricity prices.

### Why Choose LED lights over incandescent bulbs?

- 1 They burn 25-50 times longer
- 2 They use 75-90 percent less energy
- 3 They don't burn hot, making them safer for decorative purposes
- 4 They are more resistant to breakage
- 5 They are less likely to overload your wall socket

Replacing old lights with LED lighting is very much in line with the City of Golden Valley's Resilience and Sustainability Plan goal of improving energy efficiency in buildings, lighting, and infrastructure, explains Eric Eckman, public works specialist.

You can take old string holiday lights to the Hennepin County Recycling Center and Transfer Station, 8100 Jefferson Highway, Brooklyn Park, MN 55445. 

## Golden Valley Recycles

### GRAY Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
New Year's	Sat, Jan 6, 2018

### BLUE Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Christmas	Sat, Dec 30

### 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.*



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

# Wetlands Come In All Shapes And Sizes

Wetlands are not just swamps. They are important natural resources that collect and hold water and help the environment in several ways.

Besides helping filter out pollutants, recharge groundwater, and improve water quality, wetlands provide habitat, encourage biodiversity, and prevent flooding. Sometimes they don't even look wet—they can be found in the middle of dry, wooded areas, or they can be little more than a dip in a field that catches and holds water during large rain events. They come in all shapes and sizes.

“Sometimes people will see a wetland area after a large rainfall and think it's flooded and call the City to come and drain it, but it's doing just what a wetland is supposed to do,” says Tom Hoffman, water resources manager. “Some wetlands stay dry for years, and when people see them fill up with water for the first time, they think something's wrong, but it's a natural process.”

There are eight classifications of wetlands:

- Seasonally flooded basins or floodplains
- Shallow marshes
- Shrub swamps
- Wet meadows
- Deep marshes
- Wooded swamps
- Open water wetlands
- Bogs

## Keeping Wetlands Healthy

You can help maintain the health of Golden Valley's wetlands by limiting your use of fertilizer, not littering or putting grass clippings or other debris in the street or near a storm drain, and limiting your use of salt on sidewalks and driveways to avoid adding chloride to the water system (see story below). For more information about wetlands, check out the Department of Natural Resources website at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/wetlands/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/wetlands/index.html). 🌿

## Help Prevent Water Pollution This Winter

Did you know it only takes one teaspoon of road salt to permanently pollute five gallons of water? Once salt has entered the water, there is no way to remove it and it continues to accumulate. Chloride from road salt and the products people use to de-ice walks and driveways can harm fish, aquatic plants, groundwater, and drinking water.

To help protect water quality, Golden Valley City crews plow curb to curb on most snow events to reduce the amount of chemical needed. In addition, the City has equipment that uses more liquid brine and less granular salt. Crews also use liquid additives that enhance salt's effectiveness and are less corrosive.

Here's how you can help:

- Remove snow early and often. Not only will you have to use less salt or sand, you'll also avoid compacting the snow and turning it into ice.
- Salt only works at temperatures above 15° F. If you need something that will work at colder temperatures, use calcium chloride or magnesium chloride.
- Use chemicals and salt sparingly. Leftover salt will just run off with the meltwater. As a rule of thumb, use no more than 1 pound of salt per 250 square feet (for reference, a 12-oz mug is about 1 pound of salt and an average parking space is about 150 square feet).
- Before a big storm, apply a liquid de-icer to prevent ice build-up. You can make de-icer by mixing two cups of hot water with one cup of salt in a spray bottle. This brine helps keep the ice crystals from bonding to the pavement or your steps and will make shoveling easier and more effective. 🌿

# Recreation Highlights

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

## Youth

**Youth Basketball** (boys and girls grades 2–7)—January to mid-March. Volunteer coaches needed. \$60.

**Basketball Mites** (ages 5–6)—Thur, Feb 8–March 15 (no class Feb 15, 22), 6:45–7:45 pm. Skills, teamwork, sportsmanship, and fun. Crystal Community Center, \$29.

**Snow Tubing at Wild Mountain** (ages 8–14)—Wed, Jan 3, 9 am–4 pm. Depart from Brookview, \$39.

## Adult

**Boot Camp**—Sundays, Jan 7–Mar 11, 9–10 am, Davis. Strength, cardio, endurance, flexibility, and core. Bring a resistance band or 2- to 5-lb weights. \$50.

## Seniors

**Money Matters**—Jan 18: “2018 Tax Changes;” Feb 15: “Investing 105—Market Update 2018.” 10 am, Brookview Valley Room.

**Coffee Talk**—Jan 24: “A Trek through Germany;” Feb 28: “History of the American Flag.” 9:45 am, Brookview Valley Room, \$2. Register at 763-512-2345.

**Living Wise and Well**—Jan 4: “Phillip Brunelle;” Feb 1: “Songs and Stories of Music From the ’50s to the ’70s.” 2–3 pm, Calvary Coop Prairie Room.

**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, or online.

# The New Brookview!

## SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

With the opening of Brookview Golden Valley Dec 2, 2017, residents can look forward to an array of exciting events and features at the new facility, including a full bar and restaurant, a multi-level indoor playground, spacious patios, elegant banquet rooms, comedy shows, trivia nights, golf and recreation amenities, and much more.

“We’re excited to see it all come together,” says Ben Disch, Brookview Golf operations manager. “It’s going to be a one-stop shop for recreation and entertainment for all ages. We’ll still be providing our regular line-up of winter recreation activities like fat tire biking and disc golf, but the building will have so much more to offer.”

Golden Valley’s newest family-friendly gathering spot, named after Brookview’s new address, will offer an expanded menu, full bar, and range of craft brews in a cozy atmosphere overlooking Brookview Golf Course. More info at [brookviewthreonesix.com](http://brookviewthreonesix.com).

THREE  
ONE  
SIX  
BAR + GRILL

## EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS

Up the stairs from the restaurant is the Bassett Creek event room, adorned with tall windows, a built-in bar, and featuring two adjoining patios with sunset views overlooking Brookview Golf Course. It’s available for weddings, class reunions, bar mitzvahs, and celebrations of all kinds. On the same floor you’ll find a variety of meeting spaces and conference rooms for business and smaller social gatherings.

The Backyard is a 3,000-square-foot, temperature-controlled, creative play space with areas for kids ages 2–5 and 6–12. It rises three stories high with slides, cargo climbs, and interconnecting tunnels children can explore for hours. The playground is available for drop-in play and can also be booked for birthday parties. Visit [brookviewbackyard.com](http://brookviewbackyard.com) for more info.

backyard  
indoor playground

## COMEDY AT BROOKVIEW

Jan 26 And Feb 17

Battle back the winter blues with laughter! Comedy At Brookview’s debut show Jan 26 will feature headliner

Bengt Washburn, as seen on Conan and Comedy Central. The second show Feb 17 will feature headliner John Bush, as seen on HBO and in the hit stage comedy Triple Espresso. Both shows are at 8 pm. Visit [brookviewevents.com](http://brookviewevents.com) to reserve your seats.



Bengt Washburn

In addition to all of this, stop by Brookview for Monday Trivia nights, or share a drink around the outdoor fire pit, or take part in one of the many winter recreation offerings at the Golf Course. Brookview has something for everyone. You’ll want to stay all day!



John Bush

Learn more at [brookviewgoldenvalley.com](http://brookviewgoldenvalley.com).

## Skating Rinks Open Dec 23

Golden Valley maintains skating areas at 10 City parks. Opening day is set for Sat, Dec 23, with staggered closing dates in February. To see a list of rinks, amenities, and hours of operation, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/parks/skatingrinks](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/parks/skatingrinks).

# You're Invited!

## BROOKVIEW GRAND OPENING

Friday, Dec 1, 6–9 pm

316 Brookview Parkway S

Join us for an evening of exploration and entertainment as we celebrate the grand opening of Brookview Golden Valley.

- 6 pm** Ribbon Cutting (outside main entrance)
- 6:10–9 pm** Self-tours, entertainment for all ages, refreshments
- 6:30 pm** *Pan-handlers Steel Drum Band* in the Bassett Creek Room
- 6:30 & 7:30 pm** Magic Show in the Wirth Lake Room
- 7:30 pm** *On The Air* (classic rock) in the Bassett Creek Room
- 8:45 pm** *Vinnie Rose* in the Three One Six Bar + Grill
- 8:45 pm** Fireworks

### Recreation ▪ Relaxation ▪ Celebration

Spectacular in any season, the new Brookview is designed to engage the senses, starting with a warm welcome and culminating in a venture of your choice. Recreation, events, indoor play, dining, socializing...we have it all!

**backyard**  
Indoor playground

**BROOKVIEW**  
GOLDEN VALLEY

THREE  
ONE  
SIX  
BAR + GRILL

EVENTS &  
CELEBRATIONS

**BROOKVIEW**  
GOLF & LAWN BOWLING

## Golden Valley HRC Sponsors “MLK Day Literary Contest”

To honor the legacy of Dr Martin Luther King, Jr, the Golden Valley Human Rights Commission (HRC) is sponsoring a “MLK Day Literary Contest.” Deadline to enter is Dec 20, 2017. Winners will receive tickets to the Jan 15 Minneapolis MLK Day Celebration and will be invited to present their piece at a Jan 14 MLK celebration to be held at Brookview Golden Valley.

Students in grade 6–12 in Hopkins, Robbinsdale Area, Perpich, and Breck Schools may enter written work (essays, songs, poetry, etc) of 500 words or less on 8-1/2" x 11" paper, double spaced. Submissions will be judged on content applicable to the theme “Making Lives Matter.” Building on Dr King’s passion and lead-

ership, students are asked to creatively express how to realize the dream of making lives matter—their own lives and others—and explore innovative choices to positive social change.

Entries must include student name, address, phone, email, grade level; parent name, phone, email; and school name and teacher contact. One entry per student. Mail entries to Golden Valley Human Rights Commission, 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427, or email to [ksantelices@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:ksantelices@goldenvalleymn.gov).

For complete entry information, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/boards/humanrights/hrc-conversations.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/boards/humanrights/hrc-conversations.php).

# “Suburban Evolution” Is Theme For



## LAND USE

- Plan for a variety of residential areas, major employers, retail, service, institutional areas, and parks and open spaces, and attempt to minimize conflict between these uses
- Encourage high-quality redevelopment along Douglas Dr and west of downtown for future investment
- Support mixed-use nodes that provide both small-scale and regional-scale activity centers
- Encourage mixed-use developments that promote walking and active living

Citizen feedback is a major component of a Comprehensive Plan update process, and how new demographics are changing views on where the City should be headed

“Residents today are thinking creatively about what aspects or amenities the community could enhance, whereas in the past they had a stronger preference for keeping things the way they are,” says Emily Goellner, Golden Valley’s associate planner/grant writer. “We’re hearing interest from the community for redevelopment in targeted areas and to taking a proactive approach to long-term planning.”

Goellner says residents have shown increased interest in environmental and sustainability improvements, affordable housing options for an aging population, and expanded transportation options, including more bike lanes.

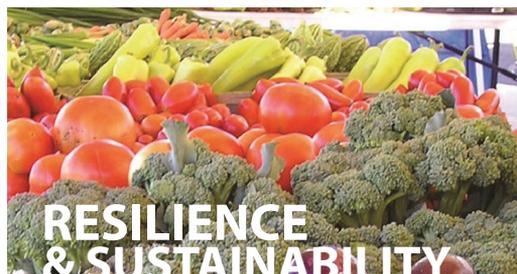
“Feedback shows residents want more variety, more options, and a city that accommodates a broader segment of the population at all life stages,” says Jason Zimmerman, City planning manager. “Our job is to find the right balance between urban amenities and suburban tranquility.”

To find out more about the 2040 Comprehensive



## ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

- Strengthen relationships with local and regional economic development and business partners
- Work to accommodate the needs of existing businesses across industries and support growth and expansion that is compatible with surrounding neighborhoods
- Continue to enhance all aspects of the City in order to provide the amenities necessary to attract workers and their families to Golden Valley



## RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY

- Help the community meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
- Measure the community’s capacity to respond, adapt, and thrive under changing and unexpected conditions
- Encourage and facilitate renewable energy, energy efficiency, waste reduction, protection of the natural environment, and community preparedness for unexpected events
- Plan for long-lasting infrastructure



## HOUSING

- Assess existing housing stock, analyze current and future demands for various housing types in the community, acknowledge important demographic and economic trends such as an aging population, and establish policies and priorities for ad-



# City's 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

One of the main takeaways during Golden Valley's 2040 Comprehensive Plan process was compared with the last process 10 years ago.

These discussions with residents prompted the City to develop the theme of "Suburban Evolution" for the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, with each chapter building on the following general goals:

- support a dynamic town center
- showcase Golden Valley as a green community by preserving parks and nature areas and embracing sustainability
- emphasize all aspects of a multi-modal transportation system
- ensure policies, procedures, and decisions are inclusive by supporting racial, cultural, and economic diversity and by accommodating the needs of an aging population
- make important investments in infrastructure

The next step is to create an implementation plan that balances needs, costs, and desires. A draft of the entire Comprehensive Plan is expected to be ready for public review and comment in spring 2018.

For more information on the Comprehensive Plan, visit [bit.ly/GV2040CompPlan](http://bit.ly/GV2040CompPlan).

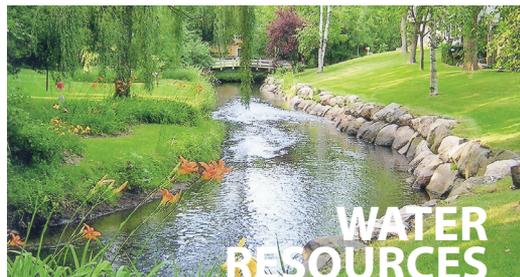
## PARKS & NATURAL RESOURCES

- Preserve park land and acquire key properties when appropriate to adequately serve all neighborhoods
- Protect and enhance open spaces and natural resources through enforcement, education, and creative solutions
- Grow the Brookview Golf and Recreation Area



Addressing any shortcomings or unmet demands

- Support a variety of housing options for all stages of life and economic means
- Plan for high-quality, healthy, safe, affordable, and energy-efficient housing for all residents



## WATER RESOURCES

- Sustain the quantity and improve the quality of all of the community's water resources
- Rehabilitate aging water and sewer infrastructure to improve system effectiveness and reliability
- Protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitats, wetlands, natural areas, shorelines, and other aquatic resources for years to come



## TRANSPORTATION

- Maximize safety, comfort, and convenience for bicyclists and pedestrians of all ages and abilities
- Enhance the transportation system, particularly the bicycle and pedestrian network, to provide community members with more options for commuting and recreation



1. R. THUMB

2. R. INDEX

3. R. MIDDLE

4. R. RING

5. R. LITTLE



## Alumni Recommend Citizens Police Academy

Discover what goes on behind the scenes of the Golden Valley Police Department at the 2018 Citizens Police Academy starting Jan 11 (see box at right).

The course delves into crime analysis, police training, use-of-force, patrol operations, 911 dispatch, detective work, and patrol operations, and features equipment demonstrations and expert presentations from the Hennepin County crime lab, Hennepin County canine unit, North West Metro Drug Task Force, the Golden Valley SWAT Team, and more.

“I think everyone should take part in it,” says Stephen Elias, a Golden Valley resident who took the course last year. “If I wasn’t taking a spot away from someone who hasn’t done it before, I would enjoy doing it again.”

Della Somwaru, Golden Valley resident and Academy alumnus, concurs.

“I would highly recommend it,” she says. “It was very thorough. Over the eight weeks there were at least 10 presenters, all friendly. They made us laugh but they also talked seriously about the things they had to do on the job. I learned a lot.”

The course is designed for people who live or work in Golden Valley and want to know more about the day-to-day operations and safety issues of area law enforcement, as well as about what residents can do to prevent crime.

You may be surprised at what you discover.

“One thing that struck me was just how much training the police go through,” Somwaru says. “And the amount of equipment they use.”

She recalls one officer weighing himself before and after donning all the necessary SWAT equipment and gaining 50 pounds.

Somwaru attended the Academy after a neighbor recommended it to her at a Night To Unite gathering. She liked it so much she’s looking into attending other similar courses in the area, such as the Hennepin County Citizens Academy.

For more information, call 763-593-8079. 

**2018 Citizens Police Academy**  
Thur, Jan 11–March 18, 6–9 pm  
(no class Feb 1)

**Golden Valley Police Department**  
Tuition is free! Apply at the Police Department (7700 Golden Valley Rd) or at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/police/gvpdu](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/police/gvpdu).

## City Considers Police Body Cams

The Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) has been testing body-worn cameras since May 2017 to determine which ones work best, with the goal of having cameras in operation in early 2018.

Part of the process is gathering citizen input regarding use of body-worn cameras. An online survey will be available at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/police](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/police) until Dec 8, 2017. The City is also hosting an open house at the GVPD Thur, Dec 7, where you can view the cameras, ask questions, and provide feedback.

Questions? Call the GVPD at 763-593-8079. 

**OPEN HOUSE**  
**POLICE BODY CAMERAS**

Thur, Dec 7, 6:30–8 pm  
Golden Valley Police Department  
7700 Golden Valley Rd

Learn more about the use of body-worn cameras in police departments and provide feedback.



# Beyond Firefighting

## GVFD's Community Outreach Spans All Seasons

Members of the Golden Valley Fire Department believe their job involves more than fighting fires. “Our mission and our programs are all about neighbors helping neighbors, the community helping the community, and everyone engaging in the well-being of each other,” says Battalion Chief Steve Baker. “It’s about inspiring residents to join the effort in making Golden Valley a better place to live for everyone. And there are a number of ways our firefighters and their families go above and beyond.”

### Be A Santa To A Senior

The *Be Santa To A Senior* gift donation program is so popular in Golden Valley it takes a team of volunteers working daily for a month to collect all the gifts.

The Golden Valley Starbucks is one of eight designated drop-off areas in the Twin Cities, and it doesn’t have enough space to hold all the gifts that come in. So, volunteers from the Golden Valley Fire Family, a group made up of Golden Valley firefighters and their family members, collect the donated gifts and store them at the Fire Department.

“We sign up in shifts,” says Jon Kennelly, a Golden Valley firefighter and member of the Fire Family. “Someone goes to Starbucks three times a day, morning, afternoon, and evening, for a month.”

This year the donation period runs Nov 10–Dec 9. If you want to get involved, pick a bulb from the tree at the Golden Valley Starbucks and bring back the requested gift.

Just before Christmas, at the end of the donation period, about 20 volunteers will help deliver the gifts to seniors in need, Kennelly says.

### Engaged Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall

Community outreach is a year-round effort, says Baker. Every summer, the Public Safety In The Park program brings firefighters and police officers together with neighborhood kids around

the City to share pizza and get to know each other. And the Fire Relief Association not only hosts an annual summer street dance for the community, it also donates thousands of dollars toward the GVFD’s education initiatives.

Each fall, firefighters visit all area schools during National Fire Prevention Week to educate students about emergency safety and run fire drills.

Every winter, firefighters volunteer to read in schools. And periodically throughout the year, Baker hosts hands-only CPR and AED defibrillator training for residents and businesses as part of the GVFD’s Heart Safe Community initiative.

“We want people to adopt that same spirit,” he says. “If you see someone who needs help in your community, do something about it. If you have an elderly neighbor, volunteer to shovel their sidewalk. Shovel out a fire hydrant. If you see someone struggling, help them. Take a CPR and AED class so you can be better prepared to assist someone in an emergency. We want to help you, but at the same time we’re reaching out and saying ‘you can help us.’”

For more information about the Golden Valley Fire Department, or to request a CPR class, visit [goldenvalleymn.gov/fire](http://goldenvalleymn.gov/fire).

For more information on Be A Santa To A Senior, visit [www.beasantatoasenior.com](http://www.beasantatoasenior.com).

# The COLD Never Bothered Us Anyway

## We're ready for the snow. Here's what you need to know to be ready, too.

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

- Keep garbage cans and recycling carts in the driveway and off roadways and sidewalks.
- Keep sleds, toys, and portable basketball hoops away from the street.
- Never build snow forts or snow sculptures in the snow piles along the street.



## WINTER PARKING REMINDERS

Parking in Golden Valley is prohibited on public streets and alleys Nov 1–March 31 from 2–6 am daily. Parking is also 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. 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.

To request a temporary exemption from the winter parking ordinance, fill out the online winter parking waiver form at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/permits](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/permits). All waivers are temporary and are not valid during a snowfall of 2 inches or more.

To stay informed, sign up for Golden Valley winter parking reminder email alerts at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe).



## PLOW DAMAGE

The City is not liable for damages to obstructions in the road right-of-way (irrigation heads, landscaping, etc). These obstructions should either be removed from the right-of-way or marked clearly so plow drivers can avoid them. The City will only repair mailboxes actually hit by plow equipment (not snow) 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)). Check your mailbox to see that it complies. Sod damage can be reported to Public Works at 763-593-8030 in the spring. Damages to sod are repaired each spring with black dirt and seed or sod.

- Reduce speed and keep a minimum distance of 100 feet from snowplows and sand trucks (frequent backing is necessary, and rear visibility is very limited).
- Never drive into a snow cloud or pass vehicles while they're plowing.
- Stay away from the end of a driveway when a snowplow is approaching.



## PLOWING & DE-ICING

To keep traffic moving, crews first plow streets that connect neighborhoods to State and County roads. Plowing stops if strong winds and drifting result in unsafe conditions; it resumes when conditions improve. Snow accumulation from consecutive snowfalls of less than 2 inches or hazardous/slippery conditions may initiate plowing and/or parking restrictions. For ice, priority areas are treated first, including:

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



## SNOW REMOVAL FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY

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.



## ADOPT A HYDRANT

Adopting a fire hydrant in your neighborhood could save lives. While shoveling your driveway, take an extra 10 minutes to clear a 6-foot space around the circumference of the closest hydrant. This will help reduce the time it takes firefighters to hook up hoses if a fire occurs in your neighborhood.

# PMP Continues In Northwest GV

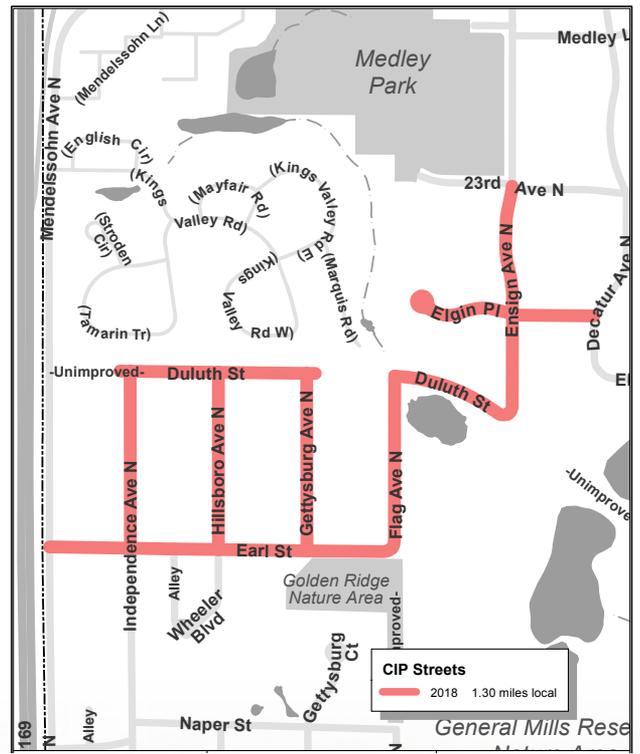
Golden Valley's Pavement Management Program (PMP) rehabilitates the City's aging streets as a long-term investment in the community's infrastructure.

For 2018 the PMP will reconstruct 1.3 miles of public streets in the area north of Earl St, east of Mendelssohn Ave N, south of 23rd Ave, and west of Decatur Ave and the General Mills James Ford Bell Research Center.

Streets are reconstructed to City standards, including concrete curb and gutter. Necessary repairs are also made to the storm sewer, water mains, and sanitary sewer mains. The 2018 PMP streets include:

- Earl St from Mendelssohn Ave N to Flag Ave N
- Independence Ave N from Earl St to Duluth St
- Hillsboro Ave N from Earl St to Duluth St
- Gettysburg Ave N from Earl St to Duluth St
- Flag Ave N from Earl St to Duluth St
- Duluth St from Independence Ave N to Ensign Ave N
- Ensign Ave N from Duluth St to 23rd Ave N
- Elgin Place from Decatur Ave N to cul de sac

The City has completed preliminary survey and design work and met with affected property owners at an open house



Nov 15, 2017. A public hearing will be held in January 2018. The City will bid the project in late winter, and work is expected to start in spring 2018.

When all reconstruction is complete, ongoing maintenance will help keep streets in good condition. For more information about Golden Valley's PMP, contact the City at 763-593-8030.

## City Council Discusses Increase To Franchise Fees

The Golden Valley City Council is considering increasing franchise fees on CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy to raise revenue for City infrastructure projects.

The proposed fee increase is part of the City's strategic plan to outline infrastructure project priorities and provide financing solutions that lessen the use of long-term debt.

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

If approved, the franchise fee increase would go into effect in April 2018 on Golden Valley customers' monthly bills.

The franchise fee increase would add \$4 per month per utility for residential customers. The increase would be more for small commercial properties, larger commercial/industrial properties, and commercial/industrial properties with dual fuel rates.

The proposed franchise fee increases are expected to provide approximately \$600,000 in additional revenue in 2018 and approximately \$1 million annually after that.

Although this will not be enough to completely address the City's future infrastructure needs, the funds will be coupled with other fees, grants, assessments, etc to help offset the costs for ongoing rehabilitation and maintenance of water, sewer,

storm water, and street infrastructure citywide.

The City previously approved franchise fee ordinances in 2010 (Xcel Energy) to help fund the reconstruction of Douglas Dr, and in 2013 (CenterPoint Energy) to help fund needed infrastructure repairs.

Approximately 35 Minnesota cities currently have CenterPoint franchise fees and 71 have Xcel franchise fees. Neighboring cities that have both gas and electric franchise fees include Brooklyn Center, Hopkins, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, New Hope, Robbinsdale, and St Louis Park.

For information about upcoming meetings on this topic, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/council](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/council).

# CONSTRUCTION WRAPS FOR SEASON



## Douglas Dr Is Open To Traffic

The reconstruction of Douglas Drive (County Rd 102), a joint two-year project between the City of Golden Valley and Hennepin County, is nearing completion. Led

by Hennepin County, work began in July 2016 in phases, starting at Medicine Lake Rd and continuing to Hwy 55. With the new roadway paved, Douglas Dr is open to traffic.

As crews wrap up construction for the season, here's what you can expect:

- fully reconstructed roadway on Douglas Dr between Duluth St and Hwy 55, and east end of Country Club Dr

- most of the new sidewalks and trails, streetscapes, street lighting, and landscaping installed throughout Douglas Dr
- temporary striping between Duluth St and Hwy 55

For the remainder of 2017, crews will continue to work on landscaping, paving trails, and installing new street fixtures and traffic signals. This work will have minimal impact to traffic.

Touch-up and clean-up work will also be completed throughout the corridor to prepare the road for winter travel.

Crews will return in 2018 to finish various short-term projects, like pouring sidewalks in certain areas, landscaping, paving between Frontage Rd and Hwy 55, and grinding in permanent striping.

The project addressed suggestions identified in the City's 2008 Douglas Drive Corridor Study to improve driver and pedestrian safety, connectivity, traffic efficiency, and aesthetics. For more information about the project history, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/streets/construction/douglas-drive.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/streets/construction/douglas-drive.php).



## New 10th Ave Culverts In Operation

Bassett Creek now flows under 10th Ave (between Winnetka Ave and Rhode Island Ave N) and the Union Pacific Railroad tracks through two new concrete box culverts, thanks to a project that pushed reconstruction up several months due to rapid deterioration of the old metal culverts.

The two arch culverts (114-inch span) and one round culvert (72-inch diameter) were classified as bridges because of their size and were inspected annually. A reconstruction project was

initially scheduled for late 2017, but inspection results in spring 2017 prompted the City to push for an accelerated reconstruction plan. Since 2008, inspection results showed continued deterioration with a potential for culvert failure.

The project involved digging up 10th Ave (between the Golden Valley Library and the end of Rhode Island Ave N), the Luce Line Trail, and the railroad track to replace the existing culverts with two concrete box culverts.

Construction started in September, and the new box culverts were in service by the end of October, along with new storm sewer pipes that convey drainage from 10th Ave. Crews are regrading and repaving the street, with project completion expected by the end of November. Final restoration and plantings will take place in the spring.

## Bicycle And Pedestrian Plan Completed

In 2016, the City Council appointed a 10-member Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Task Force to discuss goals, options, and potential policies to improve and expand bike and pedestrian transportation in Golden Valley. Using Task Force input, the City developed a proposed Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan that identifies desired routes for bike paths, bike and pedestrian amenities, and potential funding sources and partnerships. As work shifts from planning to implementation, the Task Force will meet annually to evaluate implementation and provide insight. To view Golden Valley's proposed Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, go to [bit.ly/GV2040CompPlan](http://bit.ly/GV2040CompPlan) and click on Transportation.

# UPCOMING events

## Brookview Grand Opening

Fri, Dec 1 | 6–9 pm (see page 7)

## Police Body Cam Open House

Thur, Dec 7 | 6:30–8 pm (see page 10)

## Supper With Santa

Fri, Dec 8 | 6–7:15 pm | Brookview

Dinner, music, activities, and a photo opportunity with Santa. \$12 res/\$15 non-res. Ages 1 and under free.

## Holiday Tea

Mon, Dec 11 | 1–2:30 pm | Brookview

Entertainment and refreshments. Bring your tea cup and saucer. \$9.

## Mailbox To The North Pole

Dec 2–17 | Brookview

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

## HRC's MLK Day Literary Contest Deadline

Wed, Dec 20 (see page 7)

## Citizens Police Academy

Thur, Jan 11–March 18 (see page 10)

## HRC Honors Dr Martin Luther King, Jr Day

28th Annual MLK Holiday Breakfast

Mon, Jan 15 | 7–9 am | Minneapolis Armory

The Golden Valley Human Rights Commission sponsors two tables at this event presented by The General Mills Foundation and The United Negro College Fund. Details at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/boards/humanrights](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/boards/humanrights).

## Holiday Community Giving Events

GVPD "Shop With A Cop" (through Dec 5)

Police officers and staff take local children from families in need gift shopping for loved ones. To help, contact Sgt Jeff Johnson at 763-593-8079.

GVFD "Be A Santa To A Senior" (through Dec 9, see page 11)

GVPD "Toys For Tots" Drive (through Dec 14, see page 16)

## Mary Wanderers Travel Show

Mon, Jan 22 | 1–2:30 pm | Brookview

Hear about our upcoming travel adventures. \$4.

## Comedy At Brookview

Fri, Jan 26 | 8 pm (see page 6)

## Operation Rescue Room Entry Deadline

Feb 5 (see page 3)

## WinterFest

Sat, Feb 10 | noon–2 pm | North Wesley Park

Fun for all ages, with sledding, ice skating, hayrides, hot chocolate, and a bonfire with marshmallow roasting. Free!

## West Metro Home Remodeling Fair

Sun, Feb 11 | 10:30 am–3 pm

Eisenhower Community Center

For event details, go to [www.homeremodelingfair.com](http://www.homeremodelingfair.com).

## Comedy At Brookview

Sat, Feb 17 | 8 pm (see page 6)

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

## CANADIAN PACIFIC HOLIDAY TRAIN

### Whistlestop & PRISM Food Drive

Sun, Dec 10 | 4:15–6 pm (train arrives at 4:50)

Golden Hills Dr Railroad Crossing, Golden Valley

The 1,000-foot, fully-lit Canadian Pacific (CP) Holiday Train has traveled across the United States and Canada since 1999, entertaining communities and raising money and collecting donations for local food banks. The Golden Valley stop will

benefit PRISM and feature musical performances by Terri Clark, Dallas Smith, and Kelly Prescott.

Before the train arrives enjoy warm beverages, treats, a photo booth, and carolers. Don't forget your donation for PRISM! For details about parking and viewing locations, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/cp-holiday-train](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/cp-holiday-train).



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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Twin Cities, MN

## 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.

## Support Your Community Through The Crime Prevention Fund

It has been another great year in Golden Valley, and once again the Board of the Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund (GVCPPF) and the Golden Valley Police Department would like to thank our residents for their generous contributions over the years. Without your help we would not be able to host as many community outreach events as we do today.

This year, as part of our rental community gathering, the police served pizza and ice cream bars at the Dover Hills Apartments. The event was very well attended, and as an extra treat the Golden Valley Fire Department provided fun for the children by launching streams of water to run through from one of the trucks.

In addition to the apartment gatherings, each summer the Police and Fire Departments travel to different parks in town and provide pizza and games to the children who frequent them.

Another program supported by the GVCPPF each year is **Night To Unite**, where more than 100 neighborhood groups get together for a meet-and-greet and, in most cases, visits from a squad car or the SWAT truck. We also provide funding for popular community events like the **Bike Rodeo** and **Police Bike-Along**.

Such events give Golden Valley residents of all ages the chance to meet our police officers and learn from each other. We thank you again for your generous contributions. Tax deductible donations can be sent to GVCPPF, 7800 GV Rd, Golden Valley, MN 55427.

*Nancy Azzam, President, Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund*



## GVPD's Collection In 23rd Year

Now in its 23rd year, the Golden Valley Police Department's (GVPD) Toys for Tots drive is a collaboration with regional law enforcement agencies to help those in need. On the last collection day, police from as many as 20 departments load their cruisers with donated toys and 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. A small portion of toys is distributed to local disadvantaged children.

If you want to help with this community tradition, bring new, unwrapped toys to the GVPD at 7700 Golden Valley Road (open 24 hours a day) through Dec 14 at 3 pm. Don't forget gifts for older kids and teens, and keep in mind we can't accept monetary donations. For more information, contact Commander Steve Johnson at 763-512-2502.

### WATCH THE TOYS FOR TOTS PARADE

Dec 14 | 4:30 pm

The route starts at the GVPD (7700 Golden Valley Rd) and follows Golden Valley Rd to Boone Ave/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.

