

Golden Valley

January
February 2001

CITYNEWS

New City Map

**Look inside for your new
Golden Valley Streets,
Parks, and Trails Map.**

Xenia Ave Project Receives Statewide Recognition

The City of Golden Valley was recently recognized with a statewide award for its Xenia Avenue Improvement Project. The 2000 CEAM (City Engineers Association of Minnesota) Municipal Project of the Year Award, presented January 24, 2001, is reserved for projects that benefit the public in a number of ways.

“The purpose of the CEAM award is to give recognition to the brick and mortar projects that positively affect the quality of life of those around it,” says CEAM vice president David Jessup. CEAM specifically considers issues such as public benefit and service, design characteristics, construction scheduling, environmental considerations, community relations, safety performance, unusual construction considerations (such as poor soil), construction quality, and construction innovations. Many of these issues made the Xenia project challenging.

(Xenia Award continued on page 3)

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General Mills May Withdraw Nature Preserve Proposal

General Mills announced in mid-January that it may withdraw a proposal to continue using groundwater to cool its buildings, a proposal that included plans to create a nature preserve on approximately 27 acres of land at the southeast corner of Hwy 55 and Hwy 169 in Golden Valley. The decision came as the City of Golden Valley was fulfilling its responsibility to determine if the proposed project required further environmental review and as General Mills was dealing with expansion plans.

As part of the environmental review process, the City had scheduled a meeting on February 6, 2001 to take public comments. That meeting has now been postponed indefinitely as the City awaits General Mills' final decision on using groundwater to cool its buildings and the donation of land for a nature preserve.

(Nature Preserve continued on page 7)

Sheriff's Site Advisory Board to Present Development Options

Since August 2000, a citizen committee has gathered information, studied options, and developed alternatives for the use of a five-acre parcel of land in northwest Golden Valley that used to be the Hennepin County Sheriff's Pistol Range. The 10-member Former Sheriff's Pistol Range Site Advisory Board will present some development options to the community at an open house Tuesday, February 6, 2001 (see box at right).

Board members will be available at the open house to discuss options for the property and receive comments from the public. The Board will incorporate public comments in ensuing deliberations and in its preliminary report to the City Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), which is scheduled for March 2001.

The purchase of the Sheriff's Pistol Range site is likely to occur later this year, but development of the site is unlikely until 2002 or later.

Background

For more than 40 years, Hennepin County has owned about 10.2 acres in Golden Valley on Naper St east of Hwy 169. The property housed the Hennepin County Sheriff's radio facility (including a 400-foot tower) and a pistol range. In the late 1980s, the County closed the pistol range and vacated the east five acres of the property. Although the Sheriff's radio facility continues to operate on the west five acres, in 1999 the County determined that it no longer needed the east five acres of the property. The County then completed a \$270,000 clean-up to rid the site of contamination, making it suitable for housing or other uses.

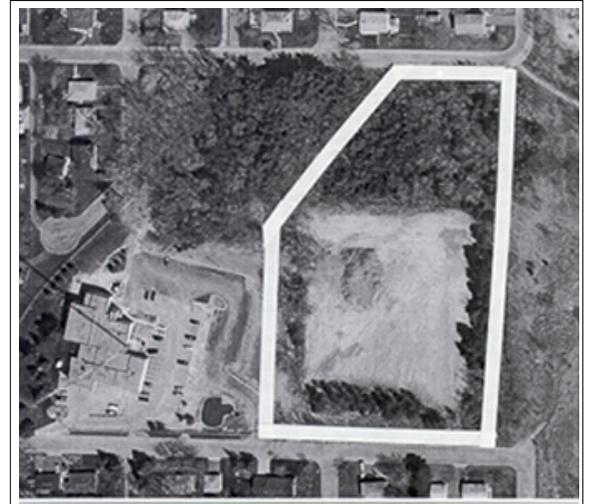
By policy, Hennepin County first offered to sell the excess property to the Golden Valley HRA. According to Golden Valley's General Land Use Plan map, the property is designated for low-density residential uses (fewer than five units per acre) and is zoned for single-family homes. Changes to the Land Use Plan and Zoning require approval by the City Council after several public hearings and recommendations from the Planning Commission.

Sheriff's Site Advisory Board

The Golden Valley HRA established the Sheriff's Site Advisory Board to review the site conditions and suggest options for development, including housing and open space. The Advisory Board consists of five citizens from the neighborhood and five representatives from City Commissions and interest groups.

To fulfill its mission and responsibilities, the Board established tasks in several categories, including: existing site conditions, housing issues, open space issues, issues with other interested parties, and site planning issues/options. The group considered current zoning requirements and proposed a number of development options (ranging from single family to cluster homes) as well as preserving trees and open space.

For more information about the Sheriff's Site property, the Advisory Board, or the open house, please call HRA Assistant Director Jeanne Andre at 763-593-8014 or City Planner Dan Olson at 763-593-8096. 



This aerial view of the Former Sheriff's Pistol Range Site shows Naper St at the bottom edge.

Open House

Hennepin County Sheriff's Pistol Range Site

**Tuesday, February 6
6 - 8 pm**

**Brookview Grill
(Lower level of
Brookview Community Center)**

**200 Brookview Parkway,
Golden Valley**

**For information, call:
763-583-8014 or 763-593-8096**

City Council Approves 2001 Budget

At its December 19, 2000 meeting, City Council adopted the City's 2001 budget and certified a net property tax levy of \$8,024,195 to finance it. This means property taxes on the average residential homestead in Golden Valley (valued at \$150,000 in 2000 and subject to a 8.5% increase in 2001 to a value of \$162,750) will decrease \$21 (-3.5%).

A complete copy of the City's 2001 adopted budget is available for review at City Hall and at the Golden Valley Library. If you have questions about the budget, contact the Finance Department at 763-593-8012. 

City Council Seeks Volunteers

Xenia Award

(continued from page 1)

“The project required the acquisition of homes and other right-of-way,” says Golden Valley Public Works Director Jeannine Clancy. “In the design, the impact to existing underground utilities had to be addressed, along with traffic control, pedestrian connections, soil conditions, storm water ponding needs, and the project’s relationship to Meadowbrook School, Golden Valley Lutheran Church, and the nearby neighborhoods. It was a very complex project.”

According to Clancy, the public participation process was vital to the success “of one of those rare projects in which we created a new road in a developed area. The citizens advisory committee did a fantastic job in considering pedestrian crossings and the speed of traffic. We worked with them to develop a design that addressed these concerns.”

City Engineer Jeff Oliver concurs. “This project has been an asset to the City. The public input process really shaped the Xenia Avenue Project. Without that input, the area would look entirely different than it does now.”

After more than two years of planning and construction, the Xenia project is now complete, traffic is calmer, and Turner’s Crossroad has been transformed from a busy street that carried 5,000 cars a day to a quiet residential street that ends in a cul de sac.

The City of Golden Valley and SEH (the consulting engineering firm for the project) thank everyone for their patience and cooperation throughout the unique project. For more information about the Xenia Improvement Project or street reconstruction in Golden Valley, contact the Public Works Department at 763-593-8030. 

The City Council is seeking citizens interested in volunteering to serve on one of Golden Valley’s Advisory Boards and Commissions. Advisory Boards and Commissions advise and recommend policy to the City Council on a variety of diverse issues (see list below). Applicants must reside in Golden Valley. More information and applications are available on the City web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/boards) or by calling Judy Nally at 763-593-3991. The application deadline is February 12.

Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)

Hears requests for variances from the city code (zoning). Meets monthly, fourth Tuesday, 7 pm. *Members: five. Alternates: two.*

Building Board of Review (BBR)

Advises, recommends, and assists Council and administrative officers of the City on building codes and the issuance of building permits. Meets monthly, first and third Mondays, 8 pm. *Members: up to five.*

Civil Service Commission (CSC)

Has absolute control and supervision over the employment, promotion, discharge, and suspension of police officers of the Public Safety Department. Meets annually and on call. *Members: three.*

Environmental Commission (EC)

Advises and makes recommendations to the City Council in matters relating to and affecting the environment in Golden Valley. *Members: seven*

Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF)

Plans and holds fundraisers and events to meet identified human service needs in the community. Advises City Council on allocation of funds. Meets monthly, second Monday, 7 pm, and requires additional time commitment for planning and working at fundraisers. *Members: 13 (six citizens-at-large, five community or business members, one City Council member, and one Human Rights Commission member).*

Human Rights Commission (HRC)

Advises, recommends, and assists Council in matters of equal opportunity and elimination of discriminatory practices. Meets monthly, second Thursday, 7 pm. *Members: 12.*

Northwest Hennepin Human Services Council Advisory Commission (NHHSCAC)

Serves as the planning and coordinating body for 15 northwest cities on human service delivery. Through monthly presentations and surveys of issues, the Commission sets goals and priorities for area human service needs. Meets monthly, third Thursday, 7 pm. *Members: 24 (two representing Golden Valley).*

Open Space and Recreation Commission (OS&RC)

Advises, recommends, and assists Council in policies and plans relating to open space needs, parks and recreation programs, trail systems, and Brookview Golf Course. Meets monthly, fourth Monday, 7 pm. *Members: nine.*

Planning Commission (PC) Advises, recommends, and assists Council in matters relating to planning and growth of the City, including matters relating to the social, economic, and physical environment. Meets monthly, second and fourth Mondays, 7 pm. *Members: seven.*

West Suburban Mediation Center Board of Directors (WSMC)

Determines policy and direction of a community mediation program that uses volunteers to provide service. Assists with marketing, development, and long-range planning. Meets every other month, third Thursday, 7 pm. *Members: 14 (one representing Golden Valley).* 

Boxboard Added To Curbside Recycling Program

Golden Valley residents may now recycle more packaging at their curbside. As of January 1, 2001, the City's new recycling contract expanded the "4-Cs" (cereal, chip, cake mix, and cracker boxes) category to include:

- dry food packaging, such as gelatin, pasta, mixes, tea boxes, etc
- beverage cartons, including 24-, 12-, six-, and four-pack carriers
- detergent boxes
- tissue boxes
- gift or shoe boxes
- tubes from paper towels or tissue
- boxes from office products

To prepare the boxes and cartons for recycling, remove all food, then throw away the foil, paper, or plastic liners inside. Then place the boxes in a paper grocery bag with the mixed paper, which includes glossy magazines, catalogs, direct mail advertising, office/school paper products, hard/soft cover books, phone directories, paper bags, small pieces of corrugated cardboard, and the "4 Cs."

24-Hour Recycling Info-Line

Recorded answers to your recycling questions 24 hours a day. Just call 763-593-8119 to reach the Golden Valley Recycling Information Line (directions for rotary phone users are on the message). For information on:

- curbside recycling, press 1
- apartment recycling, press 2
- yard waste disposal, press 3
- household hazardous waste disposal, press 4

**763-
593-8119**

While recycling the new products, remember that delivery pizza boxes or any boxes typically stored in the refrigerator or freezer (butter, cream cheese, milk, juice, frozen dinners, ice cream, etc) can not be included. At this time, these products are not recycled and result in more sorting work.

To announce the new addition to the curbside recycling program, the City mailed all Golden Valley residents an informational postcard made from the recyclable boxboard and printed with the slogan *Think Outside of the Box... and Into the Bin* (see example above).

For more information about boxboard or the City's curbside recycling program, call Golden Valley's Recycling Coordinator at 763-593-8046. 



Residents of Golden Valley, Minnetonka, and Plymouth received this postcard announcing new additions to the cities' joint recycling program.

Clip-N-Save

Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Memorial Day	Saturday, June 2
Independence Day	Saturday, July 7
Labor Day	Saturday, Sept 8
Thanksgiving	Saturday, Nov 24
Christmas	Saturday, Dec 29
New Year's	Saturday, Jan 5



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

Missed Pick-Ups

If your recycling is missed on Friday, call Waste Management at 763-890-1100 before noon on the following Monday.

If you have specific recycling questions, call 763-593-8119.

Late Winter Is A Great Time To Prune Trees

Proper Pruning

Follow these techniques to properly prune your trees:

- ❑ Prune when trees are young so wounds are small and growth goes where you want it.
- ❑ Identify the best leader and lateral branches before pruning.
- ❑ Never use wound dressing unless you accidentally wound your oaks in April, May, or June.
- ❑ Always remove 100% of the deadwood but never more than 30% of the live wood.
- ❑ Keep tools sharp. Scissor-type pruning shears with curved blades are best for young trees. Never use anvil pruners on trees.
- ❑ When pruning large limbs, cut just outside the branch ridge and collar with a slight down-and-outward angle. Don't leave a protruding stub (see graphics below).
- ❑ Never top your tree.

Proper pruning benefits not only trees, but the entire urban landscape. It helps direct growth by slowing unwanted branches. Pruning reduces the total leaf surface, thereby reducing the food manufactured and sent to tree roots for their development and next year's growth of the crown. Therefore, pruning should be done after seasonal growth is complete, or after September 30.

Tree pruning that is done improperly or at the wrong time can cause problems. Leaving stubs, or flush cutting branches, can lead to cankers and frost cracks that greatly reduce the health and longevity of your tree. The diagrams on this page show proper pruning procedures.

Best Time to Prune

Late winter is one of the best times to prune your deciduous shade trees. Many decay pathogens and diseases that thrive in trees cannot enter a tree's vascular system during the dormant season. Also, the beetles that carry the Dutch Elm and oak wilt fungus are not active in winter and therefore won't be attracted to freshly cut branches.

It is usually best to wait until the coldest part of winter has passed before you begin pruning. This is when the City of Golden Valley prunes many of its public trees. Winter pruning can result in new growth in the spring. Some species, such as maples, walnuts, and birches, may "bleed" when the sap begins to flow. This is not harmful and will stop when the tree leafs out.

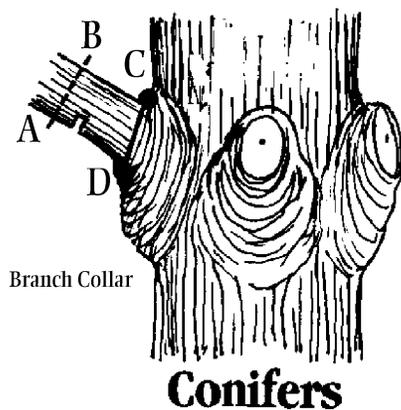
Pruning Tips

Light pruning and removal of dead wood can be done anytime, but never prune oak trees between April 15 and July 1. During this time, the beetle that carries the oak wilt fungus is active and could enter the tree via the open wounds. Also, never top your trees. Regardless of how it is done, this greatly increases susceptibility to diseases, creates an abundance of weak branches, and considerably reduces the tree's life span. Finally, try to complete all pruning before the tree buds and leaves begin to expand in the spring.

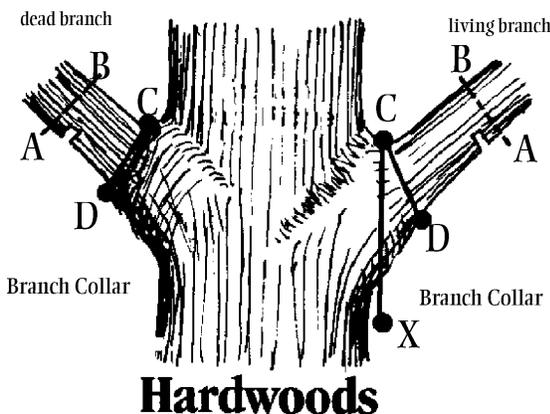
If you don't do your own tree pruning, late winter is an excellent time to solicit bids from professional tree trimming and removal contractors. Since contractors may use heavy equipment to access your trees, the frozen ground can help minimize damage to your sod and landscaping. Start with the *Yellow Pages*. Always ask for proof of insurance, and check for references.

For further questions or comments, please contact the city forester at 763-593-8046.

*Al Lundstrom,
Environmental Coordinator*



First cut part way through the branch at A, then cut it off at B. Make the final cut at C-D. Do not cut along line C-X.



City Ponds Are Not For Recreation

As part of Golden Valley's Comprehensive Water Resources Plan, storm water ponds are becoming a common sight throughout the city. Although these ponds can be very attractive, they are not intended to be played in or upon.

Storm water ponds have two primary purposes. The first is to minimize the risk of flooding. The second is to remove excess nutrients and other pollutants from storm water runoff before it enters natural waterways (ie, creeks, lakes, and rivers).

Storm water ponds are designed to collect surface water runoff (water that drains from roads, sidewalks, and other hard surfaces). This water contains many pollutants, from oils to sediments. To help remove the pollutants, water is intentionally moved through the pond from inlet to outlet. This movement can hinder solid ice formation. Further, the continuous variation of water levels can make the pond ice unstable, and unsafe. For winter recreation, the City of Golden Valley maintains several skating areas (see box below).

Several elements make storm water ponds unique:

- The main body is often three to eight feet deep and varies in size depending on how much storm water runoff is directed into it.
- Two main pond components are the inlet (where the runoff enters) and outlet (where the runoff exits) pipes. They must be far enough apart so sediments have time to settle before leaving the pond. This is why storm water ponds are usually oblong.
- Where space permits, forebays are constructed between the inlet pipe and the main pond. A forebay, usually a four- to six-foot-deep basin, holds about 15% of the pond's volume. As water flows from the forebay into the main pond, much of the polluted sediment is filtered out, providing for easier pond maintenance.

More information about storm water ponds and pond safety will be reviewed in upcoming editions of *CityNews*.

If you have questions about ponds or Golden Valley's Comprehensive Water Resources Plan, call Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom at 763-583-8046.

Tina Perpich,
Communications Assistant



Storm water ponds, like this one at Brookview Park, are not intended to be played in or upon. (Photo by Ellen G. Anderson)

Read the *SunPost* for City and Community News

The weekly New Hope/Golden Valley *SunPost* is published every Wednesday, featuring current reporting on community news. It is also designated as the City of Golden Valley's newspaper of record. That means all legal notices regarding City public hearings are printed in the *SunPost*, making it one of the first places to turn for information regarding your local government. The *SunPost* editor also diligently covers almost all City public meetings.

The *SunPost* is delivered free of charge to Golden Valley residents who wish to receive it. All you have to do is call and get your name on the subscriber list. To subscribe, call the paper's circulation department at 952-392-6830. If you want to discuss news issues, contact Community Editor Sue Webber at 763-536-7510. You can also read the paper online at www.mnsun.com. New editions are posted online Tuesday afternoons.

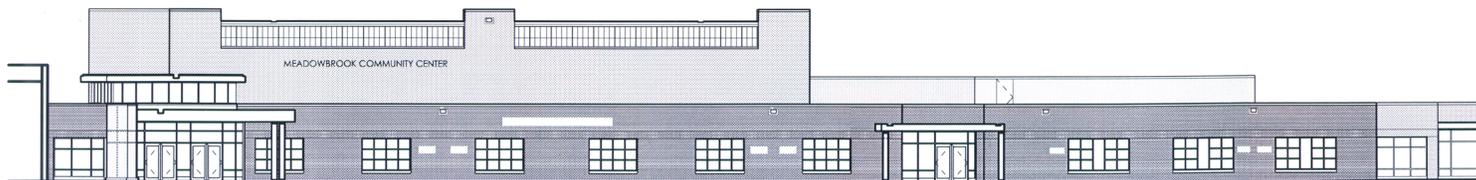
The New Hope/Golden Valley *SunPost* is a Sun Newspapers publication. For more information, contact Webber at 763-536-7510. 

Ice Rinks

The following ice rinks are open, weather permitting, December 16 to February 19. Hours are Monday - Friday, 4 - 9 pm (10 am-9 pm on school holidays); Saturday, 10 am - 9 pm; and Sunday, 1 - 9 pm.

- Gearty (3101 Regent Ave N)
- Hampshire (1601 Louisiana)
- Lakeview (9300 Olympia)
- Lions (7200 Harold Ave)
- Medley (2355 Ensign Ave)
- Scheid (1965 Toledo)
- Wesley (8305 Wesley)
- North Tyrol (4300 Sunset Ridge)
- South Tyrol (Tyrol & Ortle Pass)
- Yosemite (Woodstock & Yosemite)

For more information about ice rinks, call Golden Valley Park and Recreation at 763-593-2345.



The new Meadowbrook Community Center will be built adjacent to Meadowbrook School at the corner of Glenwood Ave and Xenia Ave.

Adopt A Hydrant

As the snow piles up, the Golden Valley Fire Department seeks your help to keep the fire hydrants on your block free and clear. A minimum three-foot clear space around the circumference of the hydrant will help reduce the time it takes firefighters to hook up hoses if a fire occurs in your neighborhood. The best time to shovel out a hydrant is after the streets are plowed but before snow accumulates and freezes.

Nature Preserve

(continued from page 1)

"Because of the Pillsbury acquisition, General Mills is looking at expanding its headquarters facilities (at Hwy 169 and I-394) in Golden Valley," explains City Manager Bill Joynes. "In the process, they're considering a new cooling system that could serve both the new and existing buildings."

The original proposal would have provided the City of Golden Valley with about 27 acres of restored wetland crossed with trails and featuring a nature center. Joynes believes that if General Mills does proceed with expansion plans, the company may still consider donating some land for a nature area.

For more information about this project, contact Golden Valley Planning Director Mark Grimes at 763-593-8097. 

Meadowbrook Project Enters New Phase

After more than a year's work by a planning committee to determine uses and design, City planning approvals have been granted and construction bidding has begun for a 24,000-square-foot community center adjacent to Meadowbrook Elementary School. Construction could start shortly after the bid is awarded and is expected to be completed by early fall.

The new building, to be called Meadowbrook Community Center, is a joint project of the Golden Valley Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) and the Hopkins School District. It will be built on land that became available after the City reconfigured Xenia Ave (see article on page 1). The HRA will own the facility and lease it to the Hopkins School District and the City.

The new community center will include Early Childhood Education classrooms and two gyms. The gyms will be available to Meadowbrook students during the school day and to the City for recreation programs during evenings and weekends. City recreation programs are open to all Golden Valley residents. Future editions of the City's Park and Recreation Activities Brochure will provide scheduling information for programs in the new gyms.

For more information, contact Rick Jacobson, Director of Parks and Recreation, at 763-512-2342. 

Little League

Golden Valley Little League Baseball is now open to girls and boys ages 7 - 12 (players must be seven by and must not turn 13 before August 1, 2001). New players must bring a copy of their birth certificate to registration. Players must reside in Golden Valley.

Registration:

Saturday, March 3, 2001 ● 10 am - 2 pm

Monday, March 5, 2001 ● 6:30 - 8 pm

Brookview Community Center
200 Brookview Parkway

All registrants will be evaluated and then placed on a team based on age and ability level. Uniforms are provided, and every individual plays in all games. Practices begin in late April, and games start May 5, 2001. The Major League season, which includes some post-regular season tournament play, may extend into August.

Evaluation:

Sunday, March 18, 2001

Benilde-St Margaret's

2501 Hwy 100 S, St Louis Park

League fees are \$65 per child (fees for second and third siblings are \$55 and \$50 respectively). Scholarships are available.

For more information, contact Tony Riemensnider (763-521-5161) or Greg Barlow (763-529-3585).

Paid On-Call Fire Service: Help Make a Difference

If not for paid, on-call firefighters, three-fourths of the United States would be without adequate fire protection, including the community you live in. When you dial 911 to report a fire emergency in Golden Valley, the call is answered by men and women like yourself who provide fire protection services to their community. Neighbors helping neighbors.

The Golden Valley Fire Department has maintained this proud tradition of community service for more than 56 years. During that time, its paid on-call firefighters have saved numerous lives and prevented thousands of fires from becoming much worse. Each year the Department responds to about 700 runs, including all types of fires, emergencies, auto accidents, medicals, and mutual aid calls to other communities. In 1999, the Golden Valley Fire Department received two awards for their excellent service: the Life Safety Achievement Award and the Fire Safe Station Award.

The paid on-call fire service is a great way to do something important for your community and for yourself. Few jobs offer the same challenges and rewards. You need dedication, enthusiasm, and the willingness to learn new skills. Because this job is important, Golden Valley firefighters are expertly trained and properly equipped. Applicants must meet certain requirements to be accepted (see box for details), and firefighters are paid between \$7.01 and \$11.08 per hour for firefighting, training, and special duty. Pensions are provided to firefighters who retire after 10 years of service.

Firefighter Requirements

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Must live within six minutes of a Golden Valley fire station
- Must pass written exam
- Must have a valid Minnesota drivers license
- Must have dependable transportation
- Must be in good health and pass a physical exam and physical ability test
- Must pass a background investigation
- Must complete a probation period
- Must complete basic recruit training
- Must complete first aid training
- Must be available for a reasonable number of fire calls, drills, and meetings
- Must be available for standby duty and work details when assigned
- Must have a high school diploma or equivalent

Up to the challenge? The Department is especially recruiting people available between 6 am and 6 pm Monday through Friday; however, all interested men and women are encouraged to apply.

For more information or for an application, call 763-593-8055 or visit any fire station on Wednesday evenings when firefighters are training.

*Mark Kuhnly,
Chief of Fire
and Inspections*



Visit The Fire Safety House: It Could Save Your Life

Working in conjunction with firefighter Sarah Larson, Golden Valley's City web site now hosts an interactive Fire Safety House. Each room is packed with information to help you make your home fire safe.

The Fire Safety House is a fully equipped home, including a basement and an attic. These often forgotten areas have information on storage and combustibles. Outside of the house, a garage and shed offer further recommendations.

While visiting the Fire Safety House, web site visitors can click on an item and instantly receive information. For example, click on the radio next to the bathtub to find a warning about the incompatibility of electricity and water. There are more than 50 tips to help stop or minimize fire hazards.

The Fire Safety House also offers in-depth information about smoke detectors, fire escape plans, fire extinguishers, and 911 calls.

For more information on available fire prevention materials, call the Golden Valley Fire Department at 763-593-8055 or visit the City web site at www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us.



Run The Valley Is April 21

Mark your calendar now for the seventh annual *Run the Valley*, sponsored by the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF). The 5K and 10K race and 5K walk is set for Saturday, April 21, at 8:30 am. Start and finish will be near the Brookview Park parking lot (one block south of Hwy 55 and Winnetka Ave at Brookview Parkway), and the certified course runs a relatively flat loop through residential Golden Valley.

For registration materials, call 763-593-8010. You may register in person before April 18 at Golden Valley City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Road (hours: 8 am - 4:30 pm). Mailed registrations must be received by Wednesday, April 18 (no faxes will be accepted). You may also register on-line at www.active.com or in person at Brookview Park on race day between 7:30 and 8:15 am. Entry fee is \$13 before April 18 and \$20 the day of the race.

Runners' times will be posted at the end of the race, mailed to runners, printed in *MN Running & Track* magazine, and posted on the Web at www.raceberryjam.com. Commemorative medallions will be mailed to the first, second, and third place male and female runners in each age category (under 19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50 and over) for both the 5K and 10K runs. Walkers will not receive awards. All participants receive a long-sleeve T-shirt and food after the race.

The GVHSF was established by the City of Golden Valley to provide financial support for organizations that benefit human services for the residents of Golden Valley. Revenue is generated or received from fund-raising events, a portion of charitable gaming proceeds, and private donations. The GVHSF distributes 100% of funds raised to causes directly benefiting the community. These include the Home Free Shelter, YMCA Detached Work Program, Suburban Northwest Dinner at Your Door, PRISM, and Senior Community Services.

Corporate sponsors for this year's event (at press time) are Liberty Carton and the Lupient Automotive Group. Other sponsors include Golden Valley Country Club, Golden Valley Rotary, Einstein Bros Bagels, Viking Food Service, Valley Mills Bakery, and Yoplait.

For more information about *Run the Valley* or other events sponsored by the GVHSF, call 763-593-8010. 

T-Shirt Design Contest

Each year the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF) provides *Run The Valley* participants (see story at right) with a T-shirt to commemorate the event.

Parameters

The GVHSF is looking for a colorful, eye-catching, and unique graphic design to raise funds, not raise a statement. There is no particular message to convey. Humor is not required but is acceptable. There are no size requirements. Designer may choose content; however, either the City of Golden Valley logo or the name "Golden Valley Human Services Foundation" must appear within the design. The GVHSF reserves the right to add these features to the design if not included.

Specifications

T-Shirt will be white, all cotton, long sleeve. Printing will be three-color silk-screen (two colors are acceptable if the design is better suited to this format). The designer may choose the colors. There is no color requirement for the Golden Valley logo or GVHSF lettering. Submit design in camera-ready format for the printer (color separations preferred). The GVHSF will handle printing. The designer may proof the printing, if desired.

Judging and Awards

The winning design will be selected arbitrarily (no ranking system will be used) by consensus of GVHSF members and possibly City staff. The selected printing company will be asked for input regarding the mechanics in printing particular designs. The winning designer (or designers) will be awarded 10 T-shirts after printing and be acknowledged in *Golden Valley CityNews*, the *Sun-Post* newspaper, and local school newsletters. GVHSF shall have sole ownership of the winning design and permission to reuse it when so desired. Last year's winner was Lucy A. Feneis of Golden Valley.

Deadline

February 28, 2000. Drop entries off at City Hall or mail them to the City of Golden Valley, Attention: Sue Virnig, 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427.

Share the Dream

Families Sharing the Dream African American Cultural Fair

**Saturday, February 10
6 - 8:30 pm
Perpich Center for Arts Education
6125 Olson Memorial Hwy
Golden Valley**

Celebrate diversity at this free event featuring music, dance, a fashion show, and a skit. Sponsored by the Families Sharing the Dream Committee of Golden Valley.

Cities and Schools To Recognize Caring Youth



Plans for the sixth annual *Caring Youth Recognition* are under way as sponsoring organizations prepare for the nomination process. The event, set for March 8, 2001 at the Minnetonka Community Center, recognizes youth in grades seven through 12 who are unselfishly involved in a cause or situation that benefits other people, who demonstrate caring by reaching out to others, or whose day-to-day life-styles reflect uncommon concern for others.

The event is a collaborative effort between the Cities of Golden Valley, Hopkins, and Minnetonka, the Hopkins District 270 4th R Youth Initiative, and the Minnetonka District 276 Our Community/Our Youth Initiative.

The Caring Youth Recognition supports the attitude of giving without the expectation of reward or recognition. It encourages an attitude of noticing the needs of others and responding to those needs in a personal, caring way. As part of the February *We Love Our Kids Month* activities, the *Caring Youth* event recognizes these young citizens' outstanding contributions to the community.

In early January 2001, the sponsors began soliciting Caring Youth Recognition nominations from schools, the faith community, civic and service organizations, and the community at large. Past recipients have included youth living, working, going to school, and serving as volunteers in Golden Valley, Hopkins, and Minnetonka.

Caring Youth

Thursday, March 8, 2001
6:45 pm

Minnetonka Community Center
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard

Youth will receive certificates from Governor Jesse Ventura, state senators and representatives, and a framed proclamation certificate from the three cities. During the program, each presenter has two minutes to explain why they selected their youth for the recognition. The event includes dessert, coffee, and punch.

For more information on the program, or if you know a deserving youth and would like to nominate him or her for this recognition, please contact Golden Valley City Council Member Jan LeSuer (763-595-0721) or Communications Coordinator Cheryl Weiler (763-593-8004), or Hopkins School District Youth Programs Coordinator Julie Forchay (763-988-4080). 

We Love Our Kids

The following are local *We Love Our Kids* month activities:

February 3—*We Care About Kids Day for Families*, Northwest YMCA, 10 am - 4 pm. For families and kids in District 281. Features open swim, skits, storytelling, music, student art show, food, prizes, and more. Non-perishable food items for local food shelves and a new children's book for the Robbinsdale Area Schools' *Reach Out & Read* program are encouraged. Information: 763-504-4900.

February 11—*We Love Our Kids Day*, Minnetonka Community Center, 1 - 5 pm. Featuring Minnesota Zoo Mobile, canine demo, bingo, mini-golf, and dog sled rides. Information: 952-988-8203.

February 13—*Opportunity Fest*, Crystal Community Center, 5:30 - 7 pm. For District 281 fifth - eighth graders. Find out about community activities middle-graders can be involved with. Event also has a DJ. Information: 763-504-4900.

February 14—*Building Responsible Youth Awards*, 7:30 am. Sponsored by the Minnetonka Rotary to recognize outstanding adult volunteers. Information: 952-988-4081.

February 16—*Friday Night Live*, Eisenhower Community Center, 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Music, games, food, and fun for District 270 fifth and sixth graders. Registration forms available first week of February. Information: 952-988-4080.

February 16—*Katherine Current Community Read-In*. An adult will spend time with each child reading a favorite story. To volunteer: 952-988-4950.

February 24—*Summer Activities Expo*, Eisenhower Community Center, 10 am - 3 pm. Featuring area activities, from overnight camps to sports opportunities. Information: 952-988-4080

March 2—*High School Unity Night*, Crystal Community Center, 7:30 - 10:30 pm. For all District 281 ninth - 12th graders. Features a DJ, food, an open gym, and a talent show. Information: 763-504-4900.

March 3 and 4—*Teen Trek*. This is a personal challenge retreat for junior high youth using adventure courses and team building. Information: 952-988-4080.

March 8—*Caring Youth Awards*, Minnetonka Community Center, 6:45 pm. Help recognize young people who care about their communities, and learn more about how you, too, can make a difference. Information: 763-593-8004.

March 20—*Empty Bowls*, Hopkins Center for the Arts, 11 am - 7 pm. Features selection of a handmade bowl to encourage simple meals with neighbors and support local food shelves. Information: 952-939-8399.

Energy Help

Help with energy bills is available for low-income people in suburban Hennepin County. For more information, call the Energy Assistance Program of Community Action for Suburban Hennepin at 952-930-3541 between 9 am and 3:30 pm.

CASH Offers Home Ownership Services

Keeping your home in good condition saves you money and protects your investment. CASH (Community Action for Suburban Hennepin) offers a variety of home ownership services to help more people become successful homeowners. These services include home-buyer education and counseling, home maintenance repair and rehab workshops, financial counseling, information regarding alternatives to foreclosure, reverse mortgage counseling, and financial assistance to eligible households.

CASH's Home Rehab Advisors can help you inspect your home for needed repairs, write specifications for renovations, locate grants and loans to finance home repairs, understand the bidding and contract process, and learn how to choose a qualified contractor. Homeowners can also attend CASH workshops on weatherization, seasonal home maintenance, how to select a contractor, and how to locate rehab and repair financing.

Home-buyer workshops cover financing options, down payment, and closing cost assistance for eligible households and help identify and overcome barriers to home ownership. CASH also offers individual home buyer counseling services.

CASH is a HUD-approved Housing Counseling Agency. For more information, call CASH at 952-933-9639, ext 282. 

Home Improvement Remains Vital To Golden Valley



Some residents in mature cities, like Golden Valley, may feel drawn to newer suburbs in search of larger homes with more updated features, but apparently many Golden Valley residents would rather remodel than move. While single-family housing construction dropped 12% in the Twin Cities area between January

and September 2000 (according to the Metropolitan Council), the City of Golden Valley issued 863 residential building permits. The value of residential home improvement projects in Golden Valley totaled an estimated \$9,663,990, an increase of nearly 30% from 1999.

In Golden Valley, the most common home improvement projects reflect the maturity of the city's housing stock. For example, roofing projects lead other residential building or remodeling by about 7-to-1.

For all home improvement projects, including additions, accessory buildings, or decks, it's a good idea to first get information on Golden Valley's City Code requirements. The box below provides a partial list of projects requiring a permit.

To facilitate the process, the City's Inspections Department has handouts explaining general requirements for building projects. However, Inspections staff members recommend that you call first to check on your specific project. In fact, calling City Hall should be one of the first things on a home improvement to-do list.

More information about home improvement projects can also be gathered at the Home Remodeling Fair (see story on page 12), which Golden Valley co-sponsors with several neighboring cities and local school community education organizations.

For more information on City requirements for home improvement projects, call Inspections at 763-593-8090. 

Building Permits

The City of Golden Valley requires permits for:

- garages, decks, additions, and porches
- duct work
- furnace and/or central air conditioning
- gas piping for stoves, ranges, grills, etc
- construction or remodeling valued at more than \$500
- plumbing (adding or altering)
- re-roofing and re-siding
- sewer work (new or repairs)
- sheds larger than 120 square feet
- swimming pools (5,000 gallons or more)
- underground sprinkling systems
- driveway (in right-of-way), curb cut, or boulevard work (call Engineering, 763-593-8030)

Free Home Remodeling Fair Set For February 25



A free Home Remodeling Fair featuring 68 contractor exhibits and an "Ask the Pro" booth will be held Sunday, February 25, from 10:30 am - 3:30 pm at Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Hwy 7, Hopkins (one mile west of Hwys 7 and 169). Parking is available at the Community Center, and shuttle service is available from the Maetzold Field parking lot (four blocks south of Hwy 7).

Exhibitors include remodeling contractors, architects, landscapers, painters, plumbers, tool and dumpster rental services, roofers, siding and window contractors, lenders, and city inspectors. There will be seminars and ongoing demonstrations for the do-it-yourselfer (see box at right) and opportunities to sign up for door prizes. Architects at the "Ask the Pro" booth will provide free, no-obligation advice—bring your photos, sketches, and questions. Food concessions will be available in the cafeteria.

This is the ninth year the Home Remodeling Fair has been organized by several western suburbs to promote improvements to their housing stock. Sponsors are the Cities of Golden Valley, St Louis Park, Hopkins, and Minnetonka and St Louis Park, Hopkins, and

Minnetonka Community Education. Co-sponsors are Boyer Building Corporation, Citizen's Independent Bank, First Union Securities, Justus Lumber Company, and Signal Bank.

For more information, contact Golden Valley Planning Director Mark Grimes at 763-593-8095. Also, see the story on page 11 for more home improvement information. 

Remodeling Plan Book Available

Cape Cods and Ramblers: A Remodeling Planbook for Post WWII Houses, features ideas for three home styles prevalent in Golden Valley: Cape Cod, rambler with attached single car garage, and rambler with detached garage. The book shows existing floor plans and three-dimensional sketches of the remodeled space. It also offers tips to ensure the finished product fits with the original architecture. This new book is a joint project of 14 Twin Cities suburbs. Golden Valley residents can buy it for \$10 at the Remodeling Fair.

Remodeling Fair

Sunday, February 25
10:30 am - 3:30 pm
Eisenhower Community Center
1001 Highway 7, Hopkins

Seminars

- 10:45 am and 1:15 pm: Window Replacement
- 10:45 am and 1:15 pm: Kitchen Remodeling
- 10:45 am and 1:15 pm: Landscape Design
- 10:45 am: Refinishing Wood Floors (part one)
- noon: Refinishing Wood Floors (part two)
- noon: Mold and Indoor Air Threats
- noon and 2:30 pm: Decks and Three-Season Porches
- noon and 2:30 pm: Bathroom Remodeling

Demonstrations

- Ceramic Tiling (11 am, 12:30, & 2 pm)
- Taping Sheetrock ♦ Toilet Repair and Installation (11:30 am, 1, & 2:30 pm)
- Decorative Painting Techniques (time to be announced)

All Day

Ask the Pro

Golden Valley
CITYNEWS

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