

Golden Valley

January
February 2002

CITYNEWS

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Water Customers To See Significant Rate Increase

Customers of the Joint Water Commission (JWC), including the Cities of Golden Valley, Crystal, and New Hope, can expect to see their water rates increase up to 50% this year as a result of an interim increase in rates the JWC pays to the City of Minneapolis for water. Rates could go higher once a contract is signed.

The three Cities of the JWC have worked together since 1963 to purchase water from the Minneapolis Water Works (MWW) under one contract. The source water supply for the MWW is the Mississippi River at Fridley. After treatment and purification, the water is pumped to water customers in Minneapolis, Columbia Heights, Hilltop, Edina, Bloomington, Crystal, Golden Valley, and New Hope. Water is softened during treatment at the MWW treatment plant, which saves water users the expense of purchasing and maintaining a home softening system. Each City maintains its own distribution system and utility billing, meter reading, and water sampling functions.

For several years, water rate fees to JWC Cities have increased about eight to ten percent annually to pay for improvements to MWW facilities. Currently, the most pressing matter for the JWC is the renegotiation of its contract with the MWW. Negotiations are expected to consider the JWC's portion of an anticipated \$250 million upgrade to MWW facilities for water treatment and safety, pumping and distribution, and plant security.

As an alternative, the JWC will compare the cost of buying Minneapolis water with the cost of developing its own water source and treatment system. The JWC will also consider rate structure modifications when the outcome is decided.

As negotiations progress, the JWC will provide its customers with more detailed information about rate increases, facility improvements, and alternatives. For more information, call General Services at 763-593-8000. 

Rate Increases

The Golden Valley City Council will consider proposed water, sewer, and storm sewer rate increases in February.

More detailed information will be provided to utility customers as it becomes available. Watch for information in the New Hope/Golden Valley *SunPost*, the City web site, and inserts in quarterly utility bills. The March/April issue of *CityNews* will provide information about approved rate increases as well as updates on JWC negotiations.

Property Tax 101: Calculating The City Portion

The property tax system has always been difficult to understand, and recent reform efforts, while considered a positive step by some, have only increased the complexity.

To help taxpayers work through the maze of terms, formulas, and procedures, each issue of *CityNews* will include a short article dealing with a particular facet of the property tax system. At the end of the year, we'll publish a comprehensive article on the outlook for 2003 taxes.



The City Portion Of The Residential Property Tax

To calculate the City portion of the residential property tax for a given year (see box), several factors are considered, including market value, class rate, and City tax rate. Future articles will outline each factor in more detail, but here is a brief definition of each:

Calculating City Tax On A Sample Homesteaded Property for 2002				
Market Value (MV)		Class Rate (CR)	=	Tax Base (CTB)
\$175,000	x	1%		\$1,750
Tax Base (CTB)		City Tax Rate (CTR)	=	City Tax
\$1,750	x	51.15%		\$895

Market Value (MV), or how much the property is worth, is determined annually by the Hennepin County Assessor.

Class Rate (CR) is set by the State Legislature and varies for different classes of property. For example, current class rates for commercial/industrial property are 1.5% on the first \$150,000 of Market Value and 2% on the balance. There are currently more than 45 classes of property in the system.

Tax Levy (TL) is the amount of money needed by the City to finance operations and to pay the annual debt service on the City's outstanding debt. The levy is determined as part of the annual budgeting process.

City Tax Base (CTB) is the total of all of the tax bases of individual properties in the City.

City Tax Rate (CTR) is determined by dividing the City's current Tax Levy by City Tax Base (see box).

Calculating City Tax Rate (2002)			
2002 City Levy (CL)	/	City Tax Base (CTB)	= City Tax Rate (CTR)
\$10,682,120		\$20,881,994	51.15%

The March/April *CityNews* will feature an article on the Tax Levy and City Tax Base. If you have questions about how property taxes are calculated, contact the City Finance Director at 763-593-8012.

Don Taylor, Finance Director

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 most 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 763-392-6860. 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.



City Meetings

City Council: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6:30 pm. Call 763-593-8006 for details.

Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA): 2nd Tuesday at 7 pm. Call 763-593-8002 for details.

Board & Commission Meetings: See story at right for various meeting times.

Agendas are posted on the City website as they are completed. Click to www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment.htm, then follow the links to either City Council, HRA, or Boards and Commissions.

Live Cable Broadcasts and Replays

All City Council and HRA meetings are broadcast live on City Cable Channel 16. They are replayed every six hours for 24 hours starting Mondays at 6:30 pm, and at 6:30 pm Tuesday through Sunday.

Planning Commission public hearings are broadcast live on Channel 16 but are not replayed.

City Council Approves 2002 Budget

At its December 18, 2001 meeting, City Council adopted the City's 2002 budget and certified a net property tax levy of \$10,682,120 to finance it.

A complete copy of the City's 2002 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. 

Boards and Commissions: Apply By February 15

The City Council is seeking citizens interested in becoming more active in their City government by volunteering to serve on one of Golden Valley's Advisory Boards and Commissions. Advisory Boards and Commissions recommend policy to the City Council and advise the Council on a variety of diverse issues (see list below). You must be a resident of Golden Valley to apply. More information and applications are available on the City web site (www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us) or by calling Judy Nally at 763-593-3991. Application deadline is February 15, 2002.

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: 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. Meets monthly, fourth Monday, 7 pm. *Members: seven.*

Human Services Foundation (HSF)

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.*

Battery Recycling Is Vital To Community Health

The holiday season brings so many wonderful things, including a lot of toys, tools, and gadgets that require batteries. Once the batteries have been used up, please remember they should not be thrown in the trash.

Battery recycling is vital to our community's environmental health. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Americans purchase more than two billion household batteries a year. Most of these batteries are not rechargeable and end up in landfills or incinerators. This practice causes concern because most batteries contain metals, such as mercury, cadmium, and nickel, that are potentially toxic.

The single largest source of mercury in garbage is household batteries, especially alkaline and button batteries. Mercury is a heavy metal with high toxicity. Long-term

exposure can permanently damage the brain, kidneys, and fetuses. The major way people get exposed to mercury is by eating mercury-contaminated food, especially fish. Manufacturers of alkaline batteries have already made the commitment to eventually eliminate mercury from batteries. However, mercury is an integral part of button batteries and cannot be eliminated.

Since Hennepin County started its battery recycling program in 1990, it has collected more than 1,250 tons of button and household batteries and reclaimed the mercury, lead, cadmium, and silver in them. There are 550 button battery and 250 household battery collections sites throughout Hennepin County, including many City Halls (see box at left for drop-off locations).

The use of rechargeable batteries is strongly encouraged. Two AA Ni-Cad rechargeable batteries can replace up to 600 single-use batteries. Rechargeable batteries are commonly found in cordless power tools, cellular and cordless phones, laptop computers, camcorders, digital cameras, and remote control toys. For a list of retailers that accept rechargeable batteries for recycling, call the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC) at 1-800-822-8837, or visit its web site at www.rbrc.org. The RBRC is an industry-funded group that promotes rechargeable battery recycling. Many local retailers participate in their nationwide program.

If you have more questions about battery recycling, call the Golden Valley environmental coordinator at 763-593-8046. 

Battery Drop-Off Sites

- Golden Valley City Hall (7800 Golden Valley Rd)
- Hennepin County libraries
- Snyder Drug and Target Stores
- Most camera stores and jewelry departments
- Hennepin County drop-off facilities:
Hennepin County Recycling Center & Transfer Station, 8100 Jefferson Hwy, Brooklyn Park and South Hennepin Recycling & Problem Waste Drop-Off Center, 1400 West 96th St, Bloomington

For a complete listing, call Hennepin County Environmental Services at 612-348-6509.

Businesses should contact the Hennepin County Environmentalist at 612-348-8100.

Clip-N-Save

Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Memorial Day	Saturday, June 1
Independence Day	Saturday, July 6
Labor Day	Saturday, Sept 7
Thanksgiving	Saturday, Nov 23
Christmas	Saturday, Dec 28
New Year's	Saturday, Jan 4



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

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

Missed Pick-Ups

If your recycling is missed on Friday, call Waste Management at 952-890-1100 before noon on the following Monday.

If you have specific recycling questions, call 763-593-8030.

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 graphic).
- ❑ Never top your tree.
- ❑ 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.
- ❑ Complete all pruning before the tree buds and leaves begin to expand in the spring.

Register Now For GV Little League

Registration opens soon for Golden Valley girls and boys interested in Little League Baseball. Players must reside in Golden Valley and be 7 years old and not yet 13 years old by August 1, 2002. New players must bring a copy of their birth certificate to registration.

Player Registration

Saturday, March 2, 2002

10 am - 2 pm

Monday, March 4, 2002

6:30 - 8 pm

Brookview Community Center
200 Brookview Parkway

Practices begin in late April. Games start May 5, 2002. For more information, call Ellis Gottlieb (612-991-4880) or Greg Barlow (763-529-3585).

Plan Now For Late Winter Tree Pruning

As you plan your seasonal home maintenance projects, take a look at your trees and shrubs. Now is an ideal time to start thinking about pruning.

Tree pruning that is done improperly or at the wrong time can cause problems in urban landscapes. 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.

Proper pruning benefits not only trees, but the entire urban landscape. It helps direct growth by slowing the branches you don't want. Pruning reduces the total leaf surface, thereby reducing the amount of 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.

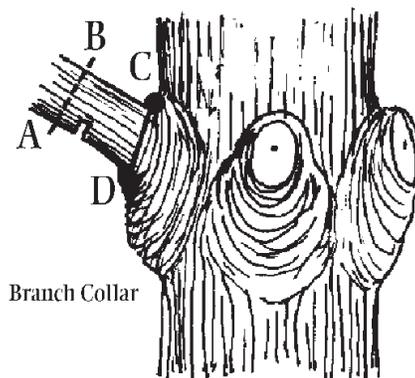
Best Time to Prune

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. The beetles that carry the Dutch elm and oak wilt fungus are not active in the winter and won't be attracted to your tree's freshly cut branches.

It is usually best to wait until the coldest part of winter has passed before pruning. This is when the City of Golden Valley prunes many of its public boulevard and park trees. Winter pruning can result in a vigorous burst of 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 Professionals

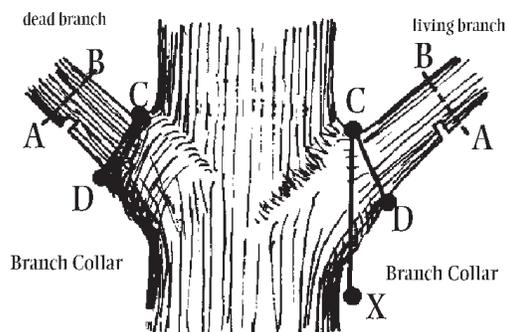
If you don't do your own tree pruning, late winter is an excellent time to solicit bids from professional tree trimming and removal contractors. Many contractors may need to use heavy equipment to access your trees. If the ground is still frozen, you risk very little damage to your sod and landscaping. Be careful of the so-called tree professional who comes knocking door to door. Start with the *Yellow Pages*. Ask for proof of insurance, and check for references. For more information, please contact the city forester at 763-593-8046.



Branch Collar

Conifers

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.



Branch Collar

Hardwoods

AlLundstrom, City Forester

City Gears Up For 2002 Street Construction

The City of Golden Valley is proposing to improve about seven miles of streets this year in four areas of the city (see box at right). The proposed Pavement Management Program (PMP) projects include the South Tyrol Area (south of I-394 and east of Hwy 100), the Meadow Lane Area (south of Hwy 55, north of Glenwood Ave, and between Hwy 100 and Wirth Parkway), Unity Ave (immediately east of Hwy 100 and north of Duluth St), and Country Club Dr (between Douglas and Rhode Island Ave).

City staff and consultants are preparing feasibility reports for the proposed street improvements, and the reports will be presented to the City Council at a public hearing in March. The City will mail notices to affected property owners with details regarding the public hearing. If the City Council approves the projects, construction would likely start in April or May and continue through September. The City held a public hearing for Country Club Dr last March, and construction of the project was delayed one year because of the proposed North Hennepin Regional Trail agreement. The City will notify Country Club Dr residents of upcoming pertinent meetings.

Golden Valley's Pavement Management Program

Street maintenance is one of the most time-consuming and costly responsibilities of City government. It's also one of the most necessary. Golden Valley must keep approximately 120 miles of streets at an adequate level of service and safety. Because streets deteriorate as they age, maintenance becomes an ever-increasing burden on time and finances. Golden Valley's PMP helps City staff maximize the life-span of the streets and minimize long-term maintenance costs.

Managing streets through the PMP means first bringing the streets up to standards, then maintaining the system. To begin the process, the City's Public Works Department evaluates streets for distresses such as cracking, potholes, and patching. These distresses are analyzed by a software program that gives each street a Pavement Quality Index (PQI) rating in the good, fair, or poor range. A PQI in the good range indicates some maintenance, such as sealcoating, is required. A PQI in the fair range indicates a need for rehabilitation methods such as overlay, curb replacement, etc. A PQI in the poor range indicates a need for major rehabilitation.

Most of Golden Valley's streets that are in the poor range are more than 30 years old and were constructed using methods that may differ greatly from today's standards. For example, pavement was sometimes placed without first removing topsoil or other soft soils. This soft subgrade allows the pavement to flex under traffic loadings, which results in cracking. Small cracks allow moisture into the subgrade, aggravating and accelerating the deterioration process.

Golden Valley's PMP includes reconstructing approximately 60 miles of streets (which were not originally built to current standards) over a period of approximately 10 years. For more information about the Pavement Management Program or the projects proposed for 2002, contact the Public Works Department at 763-593-8030.

Proposed Projects

South Tyrol Area

(south of I-394)
Alpine Pass
Avondale Rd
Princeton Ave S
Douglas Ave
Ottawa Ave S
Natchez Ave S
Fairlawn Way
June Ave S
Brenner Pass
Kaltern Lane
Sussex Rd
Tyrol Crest
Tyrol Trail

Unity Ave

(north of Greenview)
Greenview Lane
Minnaqua Ave
(Hwy 100 to Toledo)

Meadow Lane Area

(between Glenwood and Hwy 55)
Ardmore Dr
Beverly Ave
Burntside Drive (Loring to Roanoke,
Woodstock to Olson)
France Ave N
Indiana Ave N
Leber Lane
Meadow Lane N
Olson Memorial Hwy Frontage Rd
(Westwood to Meadow)
Ottawa Avenue N (Glenwood to the park)
Poplar Drive (Meadow to France)
Roanoke Circle
Roanoke Road
Sunnyridge Circle
Sunnyridge Lane
Westwood Dr N
Woodstock Ave (Burntside to France)

Country Club Drive

Park & Rec News

Summer Employment—The Golden Valley Park & Recreation Department is taking applications through April for recreation leaders, coaches, tennis instructors, field attendants, park maintenance workers, and golf operations workers. For more information, call 763-512-2345.

Spring/Summer Recreation Brochure—The Spring/Summer Recreation Brochure, which includes information for Fall Soccer, will be mailed to all residents in early March. If you do not receive one, call 763-512-2345.

Meadowbrook Community Center—If you are interested in open gyms at Meadowbrook (for volleyball, basketball, etc) call the Park & Recreation office for more information.

**Park & Recreation
Brookview Community Center
200 Brookview Parkway
Golden Valley, MN
763-512-2345**



Seventh Annual Event Will Recognize Caring Youth

Area youth in grades seven through 12 who contribute to their communities by helping others will be honored March 14, 2002 at the seventh annual Caring Youth Recognition. The event, which will be held at Minnetonka High School's ArtsCenter, is a collaborative effort between the Cities of Golden Valley, Hopkins, and Minnetonka, the Hopkins District 270 4 'R Youth Initiative, and the Minnetonka District 276 Our Community/Our Youth Initiative.

Caring Youth recognizes young people who are unselfishly involved in a cause or situation that benefits others, who demonstrate caring by reaching out to others, or whose day-to-day life-styles reflect uncommon concern for others.

The Caring Youth Recognition event supports the attitude of giving without the expectation of reward or recognition. As part of the February *We Love Our Kids Month* activities, Caring Youth honors outstanding contributions to the community by its young citizens.

Sponsors solicit Caring Youth nominations from schools, the faith community, civic and service organizations, and the community at large. For more information on the program, contact Golden Valley Communications Coordinator Cheryl Weiler (763-593-8004).

Review Assets For Youth During *We Love Our Kids* Month

Golden Valley is one of many communities across the nation that recognizes the importance of youth. February's *We Love Our Kids* celebration is designed to remind everyone of the important contributions adults can make to the lives of youth in the community through basic building blocks called assets.

According to the Search Institute, a Minneapolis-based nonprofit research organization, there are 40 developmental assets necessary for youth to become positive, contributing adults. These assets are broken into eight categories (outlined in bold type below) that everyone in a community can use to help develop youth.

- **Support** young people with your caring and attention.
- **Empower** youth to use their abilities to help others.
- Set reasonable **Boundaries** and have high **Expectations**.
- Help young people find activities that are a **Constructive Use of Time**.
- Spark and foster their **Commitment to Learning**.
- Guide them toward a life based on **Positive Values**.
- Help kids develop **Social Competencies**.
- Celebrate their uniqueness and affirm their **Positive Identity**.

For a complete list of assets for different age groups (toddlers, preschoolers, elementary age children, and adolescents) go to <http://www.search-institute.org/assets>.

We Love Our Kids

Communities throughout the metro area will host a variety of *We Love Our Kids* month activities in February. A few of the local events are listed below.

February 7—OpportunityFest, Crystal Community Center, 5:30 - 7 pm. For District 281 fifth - eighth graders. Features food, fun, and information about programs and activities for middle school kids. Information: 763-504-4900.

February 22—Espresso Yourself Coffee House Night, Caribou Coffee (4210 Winnetka Ave N, New Hope), 7 - 10 pm. Free entertainment by youth and discount coffee for all District 281 high school students. Information: 763-504-4900.

March 14—Caring Youth Recognition, Minnetonka ArtCenter, Minnetonka High School, 6:45 pm. Event honors the contributions of area youth who unselfishly give of themselves to the community (see related story on this page).

Corporate Call Aims To Recruit Daytime Responders

The greatest challenge faced by Golden Valley's paid, on-call fire department is recruiting daytime firefighters (those available for service Monday - Friday, 6 am - 6 pm). In response, the Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) has developed and initiated *Corporate Call*, a collaborative effort with area businesses to maintain the high quality of fire service in the community by supporting recruitment of daytime responders from within corporate ranks. Through *Corporate Call*, Golden Valley business owners and managers allow interested employees to become daytime responding firefighters for the GVFD.

How Corporate Call Began

For years, traditional recruitment methods (appeals in the City newsletter and *SunPost*, brochures and flyers, and at the annual City Open House, Fire Relief Association Street Dance, and Neighborhood Watch meetings) garnered enough applicants to fill openings during evening and weekend hours. However, these methods didn't work well recruiting daytime responders.

Research revealed most cities with paid, on-call fire departments were facing the same problem. A study of Golden Valley's demographics revealed that about 30,000 people enter the city each day to work for companies here, and the GVFD began to view this population as an untapped resource. In 2001, the GVFD formed a firefighter recruitment task force with local businesses. The result was *Corporate Call*, a program that taps local business owners and corporate human resources departments to help set up a network of in-company advertising about the paid on-call fire service, and finally, meetings with prospective firefighters.

Benefits of Corporate Call

In today's economy there is much talk about providing services without increasing costs. Paid, on-call fire departments are the most cost-effective way for cities to deliver fire service. Having a paid, on-call fire department versus a full-time department translates into tax savings for both businesses and residents.

Collaborating with the GVFD is a preventive relationship that provides a participating business with a trained firefighter on staff—someone who knows fire codes, fire systems, and the latest firefighting techniques. Firefighters do not panic in a crisis. Their training allows them to evaluate everyday and emergency situations and respond appropriately.

Both businesses and employees participating in *Corporate Call* enjoy benefits, including community recognition and the feeling of being able to help people who are having the worst day of their lives.

For more information on the *Corporate Call* program, call 763-593-8080.

Senior Safety Fair

Learn about avoiding frauds and scams, protecting your privacy, fire safety, fall prevention, and responding to emergency incidents.

Friday, April 19, 2002

8:30 am - 1:30 pm

**Golden Valley Public Safety Building
7800 Golden Valley Road**

**Cost: \$5 (includes snack and lunch)
Scholarships are available.**

To register, send your name, address, phone number, and \$5 check (payable to the Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund) to:

Golden Valley Public Safety
ATTN: Senior Safety Fair
7800 Golden Valley Road
Golden Valley, MN 55427

For more information, call 763-593-8058.

GVFD Recognized For Senior Safety Education Efforts

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recently recognized the Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) for its assistance in the Minnesota Residential Fire-Related Injury Prevention Program.

"Safety education to seniors in Golden Valley has made a significant impact on reducing the likelihood of fire-related deaths and injuries in Minnesota," says Jan K. Malcolm, MHD Commissioner.

To continue its efforts to protect senior citizens in the community, the GVFD will host a Senior Safety Fair (see box above) this spring. See page 9 for a list of Safety Tips for Seniors.

For more information on fire prevention initiatives, call Golden Valley Fire Education Specialist Sarah Larson at 763-593-3977.

Safety Tips For Senior Citizens



The National Fire Prevention Association's (NFPA) Fire and Fall Prevention Program for Older Adults recommends the following safety precautions for senior citizens:

Fire Prevention

- Provide large, deep ashtray for smokers.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn.
- Wear tight-fitting or rolled-up sleeves to cook.
- Never leave cooking unattended.
- If a pan catches fire, slide a lid over it and turn off the burner.
- Don't cook if you're drowsy from alcohol or medication.
- Have smoke alarms installed outside all sleeping areas and on every level of your home.
- Plan and practice fire escape routes.
- Have a phone in your bedroom.

Fall Prevention

- Exercise regularly to build strength.
- Take your time sitting or standing.
- Keep stairs and walking areas free from clutter.
- See an eye specialist once a year.
- Use non-slip mat in bath/shower and install grab bars.
- Do not use throw rugs.
- Light stairwells from top to bottom and have easy-to-grip handrails installed.
- Wear sturdy, well-fitted, low-heeled shoes with non-slip soles. 

City Offers Child Passenger Seat Safety Check-ups

By appointment, Golden Valley parents and caregivers can now have the child safety seats in their cars checked by safety specialists for proper installation and usage. The Golden Valley Public Safety Department is offering free Child Passenger Safety Check-ups twice a month (see box for details). Specialists will also check to see that older children are using safety belts properly.

According to the National Safe Kids Campaign, an estimated 272,000 children ages 14 and under were injured as occupants in motor vehicle crashes in 1999. Buckling children in the appropriate restraint—the right way—can protect them from injury and save lives during crashes as well as sudden stops.

To keep children safe, everybody in the vehicle needs to use a safety belt or safety seat. However, vehicle seats and safety belts are built to fit adults, not children, and seven of 10 child safety seats are not used properly. These safety concerns are not only for infants and toddlers. Children ages four to eight who weigh less than 80 pounds and are shorter than 57 inches should ride in a booster seat.

The best safety restraint should fit the child's size and weight, fit in your vehicle tightly, and be secured the right way every time. All safety seats for children who weigh less than 50 pounds must meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213, a strict set of requirements validated by crash testing. Ages stated are guidelines; always check manufacturer's instructions for weight limits.

For more information about child passenger safety, contact the Auto Safety Hotline at 1-800-424-9393 or the Minnesota Child Passenger Safety Program at 1-800-818-9296 (www.buckleupkids.state.mn.us). 

Safety Seat Check

Monthly By Appointment

Second Monday
10 am – noon

Fourth Wednesday
4 – 6 pm

For safety specialists to adequately serve you, please bring:

- your child(ren)
- manufacturer's directions for the safety seat
- owner's manual for your vehicle

**To schedule, call:
Golden Valley Public Safety
763-593-8079**

It's The Law

Minnesota law requires children under age four to be restrained in a car seat that meets federal safety standards. Children up to age 11 must be buckled in, regardless of where they are sitting.

Run The Valley Is April 20

Mark your calendar now for the eighth 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 20, 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 17 at Golden Valley City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Road (hours: 8 am - 4:30 pm). Mailed registrations must be received by Wednesday, April 17 (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 \$15 before April 17 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 funding for human service organizations that benefit 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, Crisis Connection, PRISM, Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, and Senior Community Services.

Corporate sponsors for this year's event (at press time) are Liberty Carton, Allianz, and the Lupient Foundation. 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. 



Mary Brekke, a Golden Valley graphic designer, won the 2001 Run The Valley T-shirt design contest.

T-Shirt Design Contest

Each year the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF) provides *Run The Valley* participants (see story at left) with a T-shirt to commemorate the event. The design is changed annually and the community is encouraged to submit designs.

Parameters—The GVHSF is looking for a colorful, eye-catching, unique graphic design. The main intent of the GVHSF is to raise funds, not raise a statement. There is no particular message to convey through the graphic or in any accompanying wording. The use of humor is not required but perfectly acceptable. Designer may choose content; however, either the City of Golden Valley logo or the name "Golden Valley Human Services Foundation" must appear somewhere within the design. There are no size requirements for this. 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 graphic design is better suited to this format). The designer may choose the colors. There are no color requirements for the Golden Valley logo or Golden Valley Human Services Foundation lettering; however, there can be no shades of color. Submit design in camera-ready format for use by the printer (color separations preferred). The GVHSF will handle all printing. The designer may proof the printing, if desired.

Judging and Awards—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 winner(s) 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.

Deadline—March 1, 2002. 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.

Project Checklist

If you're doing a home improvement project, you must complete this checklist before the City can issue a building permit (applies to residential construction only, and requirements can vary for specific projects).

- ✓ Verify setbacks of existing house as well as addition/deck. First, call the Golden Valley Inspections Department (763-593-8090) to check if there is a survey in your street file. If not, locate the survey stakes in the corners of the lot and then call the Inspections Department so an inspector can come out and verify setbacks. The setback stakes must be uncovered by the homeowner or contractor.
- ✓ If the house or addition/deck does not meet setback requirements, you must apply for a waiver through the Planning Department (763-593-8095). Have the building survey handy when applying.
- ✓ For an addition or garage (detached or attached), you must apply for a grading permit from the Public Works Department (763-593-8030). The City must approve the grading permit and complete an inspection before issuing a building permit.
- ✓ Submit building plans to the Inspections Department, then allow a minimum of 10 working days for the review to be completed. The following items must be included with the building plans:
 - two sets of plans done to 1/4" scale
 - building permit applications
 - soil information (Check your street file. If your house is on an engineered system, such as pilings or corrected soil, your addition/deck must be also.)
 - the setback survey (A site plan done to scale may be acceptable if setbacks were verified.)
 - energy calculations for heated additions

Get Ready For Home Improvement Season

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 seven to one). Many of these home improvement projects require some type of permit, including:

- reroofing and residing
- construction of 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)
- 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)

According to the City's Inspections Department, the best strategy is to plan ahead, especially if it's an extensive project such as a deck or addition. The home improvement project checklist at the left, put together by the Inspections Department, must be completed before a building permit can be issued. The list is for residential construction only, and requirements can vary for specific projects. You can also check out this year's free Home Remodeling Fair (see story on page 12).

The Inspections Department has handouts explaining general requirements for most building projects. No matter what the project, calling City Hall is one of the first things to do when planning any construction or home improvement project. For more information on City requirements for home improvement projects, call Inspections at 763-593-8090.

*Tina Perpich,
Communications Assistant*

Families Sharing the Dream

Celebrate diversity and Black History Month at this free family event featuring a fashion show and performances by actor T. Mychael Rambo; singer Greg Eubanks; rap artists C-Dub & Dizzy; jazz/pop/gospel groups Crossroads, Jubilation Ensemble, and New Hope Baptist Church Choir; the jazz/blues En-Core Band; and the Sandburg Steppers and Perpich Dancers,

**African American Cultural Fair
Saturday, February 9
6 pm**

**Perpich Center for Performing Arts
6125 Olson Memorial Hwy
Golden Valley**

For information, call: 763-542-9282

Free Home Remodeling Fair Set For February 24

A free Home Remodeling Fair featuring 74 contractor exhibits, seminars, and an "Ask the Pro" booth will be held Sunday, February 24, 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 additional parking lots.

Exhibitors include remodeling contractors, architects, landscapers, painters, plumbers, roofers, siding and window contractors, lenders, city inspectors, and more. There will be free 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 tenth 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 Advance Home Products, Boyer Building, Case Handyman Services, DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen, Justus Lumber, and Signal Bank.

For more information, contact Golden Valley City Planner Dan Olson at 763-593-8096. 



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 or pick it up for free at City Hall after the Fair.

Remodeling Fair

Sunday, February 24
10:30 am - 3:30 pm
Eisenhower Community Center
1001 Highway 7, Hopkins

Seminars

11 am:	Window Replacement, Decks and Porches, Refinishing Wood Floors (Part 1), Pet-Friendly Landscaping
11 am & 12:15 pm:	Kitchen Remodeling
12:15 pm:	Landscape & Garden Design, Feng Shui, Refinishing Wood Floors (Part 2)
12:15 & 1:30 pm:	Bathroom Remodeling
1:30 pm:	All About Windows, Preventing Cold-Weather Problems, Interior Design ABCs

Demonstrations

- Ceramic Tiling (11 am, 12:30, & 2 pm)
- Taping Sheetrock ♦ Toilet Repair and Installation (11:30 am, 1, & 2:30 pm)
- No-Sew Window Treatments (11 am & 12:30 pm)
- Faux Finishes (11 am & 2 pm)
- Advanced Faux Finishes (12:30 pm)

All Day

Ask the Pro and City Inspectors

Golden Valley
CITYNEWS

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Available on audio tape.

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