

JANUARY FEBRUARY

# Golden Valley 2004

## CITYNEWS

Help Imagine  
the Golden Valley of Tomorrow  
**You're Invited**  
to the *Envision Golden Valley Summit*  
**February 23, 2004**  
**7 pm**  
Golden Valley Country Club  
7001 Golden Valley Road



**RSVP**

by Thursday, February 12

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- Need child care (age limited) for \_\_\_\_\_ children
- Indicate other special needs (interpreters, large print, etc)

Mail, phone, fax, or email RSVP  
information to:

Edie Ernst  
City of Golden Valley  
7800 Golden Valley Rd  
Golden Valley, MN 55427  
763-593-8017  
fax: 763-593-8109  
[eernst@ci.golden-valley.mn.us](mailto:eernst@ci.golden-valley.mn.us)

Be sure to register special needs  
at least 11 days before event.

If special needs are noted, you  
will be contacted to confirm.



## Your City, Your Ideas, Your Future

If you have ideas or opinions about how you'd like Golden Valley to be in 10 or 20 years, this is your big chance. Attend the **Envision Summit**, a culmination of *Envision* events seeking input about the future of Golden Valley from people who live, work, and play here.

The *Summit* (see invitation at left), will bring people together to discuss and prioritize ideas generated earlier in the process through *Envision Online* and *Envision-In-A-Box* (see below). Mark your calendar and register now (see RSVP at left). Be sure and register special needs at least 11 days before the event.

**Envision Online** Log on to the City web site at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/Envision.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/Envision.htm) and share your views and ideas electronically.

**Envision-In-A-Box** Gather friends or neighbors for a small meeting. Call *Envision's* volunteer coordinator (Bob Provost, 763-377-7494) to schedule a facilitator to come to your home, club, or business. Download *Envision-In-A-Box* information at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/Envision.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/Envision.htm).

For more information on *Envision* activities, contact Assistant to the City Manager Jeanne Andre at 763-593-8014. ✓

### IN THIS ISSUE

VOLUME 17 NUMBER 1

JWC NEARS DECISION|2

3|GET READY TO RUN THE VALLEY

PLASTIC RECYCLING|4

5|MAINTAINING WATER QUALITY

FEATURE ARTICLE 6-7|Kick START Golden Valley

PMP To Conclude Work In Brookview Area|8

9|City To Improve Hwy 55/Boone Ave Intersection

City Considers Zoning Code Updates|10

11|Online Park Program Registration

## About The JWC

Since 1963, the Cities of Crystal, Golden Valley, and New Hope have worked cooperatively as the Joint Water Commission (JWC) to provide treated drinking water to their residents. During those 40 or so years, the JWC has purchased treated Mississippi River water from Minneapolis, stored it in JWC reservoirs and water towers, and provided it to the three Cities for delivery to residents.

Independently, the three Cities operate and maintain their own water distribution systems and charge their customers for these services as necessary. Some of these fees collected through utility bills are used by each of the three Cities to replace and improve such things as aging pipes and water meters. Some is paid to the JWC for the Minneapolis water, and some to the JWC to operate and maintain the reservoirs, water towers, and large diameter water pipelines.

## Cost of Water Comparisons

In any discussion of the City's water rates, it's important to understand the major cost items covered by the quarterly water rate (currently \$3 per thousand gallons). As explained in the sidebar above, water rates include the cost of water, the cost of labor and materials to maintain City infrastructure, and the cost of renewal and replacement (revenue saved to finance future replacement of City water lines, equipment, and storage facilities). The JWC's pending decision involves just the water portion of the rate. The estimated costs are shown below.

### Minneapolis Proposal:

- a 2004 cost of \$1.86 per thousand gallons (a 23% reduction from the current \$2.41), with estimated increases of 4.5% each year through 2009

### JWC System:

- slightly higher costs until 2008, when the system comes online, followed by an estimated 25% cost decrease in 2009. Additional cost decreases may be expected when the bonds are paid off.

# JWC Nears Decision On Future Water Options



As you may have noticed, your water bills have been steadily increasing over the past few years. The primary reason is increases in the cost Minneapolis charges to treat and deliver Mississippi River water to the Joint Water Commission (JWC) Cities of Crystal, Golden Valley, and New Hope (see sidebar for more on the JWC). Although the increases are the same as those experienced by Minneapolis water customers, the higher costs compelled the JWC to examine whether it could deliver water of comparable quality for a lower price.

## JWC At A Crossroads

After more than a year of technical research and financial comparisons, the JWC is now at a crossroads. Although it has negotiated a new long-term water purchase agreement proposal with Minneapolis officials that would significantly reduce the cost of treated water purchased from Minneapolis, the agreement does not protect the JWC from future cost increases as Minneapolis addresses its aging infrastructure.

That's why the JWC has worked these past months to develop an alternative to Mississippi River water. Tests of the Prairie du Chien aquifer indicate it would be an adequate future source of water for the JWC. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has indicated that the JWC must receive approval from the State Legislature before tapping the aquifer.

The JWC also confirmed important engineering assumptions related to developing a groundwater treatment and supply system. In December 2003, a peer review by independent technical consultants confirmed that lime softening would provide water of equal or better quality than residents now get from Minneapolis. This water would not require customers to install water softeners. The peer review also confirmed that such a system could be built for \$43 million and provide first water in mid-2007.

At this point, the JWC is carrying forward three future water options that would provide for usage of 18 million gallons per day (all three options will require water conservation):

- continue to purchase all water from Minneapolis
- develop a groundwater-based water supply and treatment system designed to meet all of the JWC's future water needs
- develop a slightly smaller groundwater supply system coupled with continued water purchases from Minneapolis

## TIME FOR A DECISION

The three City Councils have begun deliberating the JWC's options. Golden Valley is planning two public information meetings to answer questions residents may have about the status of the water issue. Both meetings will be held after the City Council meetings February 3 and 17 and were separately noticed in the Golden Valley *SunPost* and on Cable 12 news. For more information, contact Public Works Director Jeannine Clancy at 763-593-8035, or go to [www.jwcontap.org](http://www.jwcontap.org).

# Get Ready To Run The Valley April 17

Make plans to join your friends and neighbors at 8:30 am, Saturday, April 17, for one of Golden Valley's most popular community events, the 10th annual *Run the Valley*. Sponsored by the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF), this annual 5K/10K race and 5K walk has become a successful fund-raiser for organizations that benefit the community. The 2003 event drew 620 runners and walkers and raised \$8,797 for the GVHSF, which allocated the funds to local human service organizations.

Because of construction at Brookview Park, this year's race will start and finish near the Davis Community Center parking lot at Meadowbrook Elementary (one block east of Hwy 100 at the intersection of Glenwood and Xenia Aves). The certified course runs a relatively flat loop through residential Golden Valley; water stops and post-race complimentary snacks will be provided. All participants receive a long-sleeve T-shirt.

For registration materials, call 763-593-8010. Register in person or by mail (no faxes) up to three days before the race at Golden Valley City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Rd (hours: 8 am - 4:30 pm). You may also register on-line at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) or in person at Davis Center on race day between 7:15 and 8 am. Entry fee is \$15 before March 1, \$20 March 2 - April 14, and \$25 the day of the race.

For more details about *Run the Valley* and the GVHSF, watch for the next issue of *CityNews*, click to [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/runvalley.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/runvalley.htm), or call 763-593-8010.



## GVHSF PROVIDING COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Since 1992, the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF) has worked to support human service organizations that serve Golden Valley residents. Each year, this board of citizen volunteers reviews funding requests and allocates funds raised by the Foundation through various annual fund-raisers, such as *Run the Valley* in April and September's *Golden Valley Golf Classic*. The Foundation also receives 10% of the pull tab monies collected in the City.

For 2004, the GVHSF will allocate \$80,001 to eight local human service organizations: Northwest YMCA Detached Work Program (\$25,000), Home Free Domestic Assault Intervention Project (\$20,501), Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery (\$10,000), PRISM Food Shelf (\$9,000), Senior Community Services Home Program (\$4,000) and Outreach Program (\$1,500), Suburban Northwest Dinner at Your Door (\$5,000), Crisis Connection (\$3,000), and North Hennepin Mediation Program (\$2,000). To qualify for funding, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- The services must not be duplicated by a level of government.
- The service provided is for Golden Valley residents at a time of crisis.
- The service must include cooperation or collaboration between organizations.
- Foundation funding should be a "last resort" source for funding the services.
- The organization should use the funds granted by the Foundation to serve Golden Valley citizens.
- Funding shall be granted to human service organizations and not to an individual or individuals.
- Funding will not be granted to any organization licensed in the City of Golden Valley for lawful gambling operations.

For more information about GVHSF activities and events, or to join the list of contributors and volunteers, please call 763-593-8010.

## RUN THE VALLEY T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

Each year the Golden Valley Human Services Foundation (GVHSF) provides *Run The Valley* participants with a T-shirt to commemorate the event. The design is changed annually, and the process is open to the community.

### PARAMETERS

The GVHSF seeks a colorful, eye-catching, and unique graphic design for the T-shirt. There is no particular message to convey, and the use of humor is welcomed. While the designer chooses the content, either the City of Golden Valley logo or the name "Golden Valley Human Services Foundation" must appear in the design. The GVHSF reserves the right to add these features to the design.

### SPECIFICATIONS

The winning design will be printed in three-color silk screen (two colors are acceptable if it better suits the design) on an all-white, long-sleeve, cotton T-shirt. The designer chooses the colors. There are no color requirements for the Golden Valley logo or Golden Valley Human Services Foundation lettering. Submit design in camera-ready format for use by the printer (color separations preferred). The GVHSF handles all printing. The designer may proof the printing, if desired.

### JUDGING AND AWARDS

The winning design is selected arbitrarily (no ranking system is used) by GVHSF members and possibly City staff. The selected printing company is asked for input regarding the mechanics in printing particular designs. The winning designer (or designers) is awarded 10 T-shirts after printing and is acknowledged in Golden Valley *CityNews* and the Sun-Post newspaper. GVHSF retains sole ownership of the winning design and permission to reuse it whenever desired.

### DEADLINE

Submit entries by 4:30 pm Friday, February 6, 2004.



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

## Holiday Schedule

### Holiday Week—Pick-Up Date

Memorial Day—Sat, June 5  
 Independence Day—regular pick-up  
 Labor Day—Sat, Sep 11  
 Thanksgiving—Sat, Nov 27  
 Christmas—regular pick-up  
 New Year's—regular pick-up

## 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.

## 24-Hour Recycling Info-Line

Features 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**

# Plastic Recycling: A Waste Reduction Must

If you're like many Americans, you have plastic in your home. Since the 1950s, plastic has become a major part of our consumer culture, appearing in everything from appliances, packaging, and bags to containers, clothing, and medical devices. Whether or not you think plastic is a modern miracle, it's here to stay. The good news is, with a little information, you can reduce the impact of the 14.4 million tons of plastic discarded every year.

## KNOW YOUR PLASTIC

Ever looked closely at plastic? There's usually a number from one to seven stamped on it to identify the type of plastic. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), here's the plastic break down.



**1 PETE** (polyethylene terephthalate) is used for soda bottles, medicine containers, etc, and accounts for about 0.5% of plastic.



**2 HDPE** (high-density polyethylene) is used for milk, water, and detergent bottles, newer bullet-proof vests, various toys, etc, and accounts for 21% of plastic.



**3 V** (polyvinyl chloride) is used for pipe, meat wrap, cooking oil bottles, etc, and accounts for 6.5% of plastic.



**4 LDPE** (low-density polyethylene) is used for shrink wrap and grocery and sandwich bags, etc, and accounts for 27% of plastic.



**5 PP** (polypropylene) is used in Tupperware®, yogurt tubs, diapers, outdoor carpet, etc, and accounts for 16% of plastic.



**6 PS** (polystyrene) is used for coffee cups, disposable cutlery, meat trays, packing peanuts, Styrofoam® insulation, etc, and accounts for 16% of plastic.



**7 OTHER** is any combination of #1 through #6 and accounts for 8.5% of plastic used, all of which ends up in a landfill.

## How You CAN Help

Recycle. Plastic marked #1 and #2 (or anything with a neck or with pourable contents) is generally recycled, so put it with recyclables at the curb. Number 2 plastic (HDPE) is used to make 62% of all plastic bottles containing milk, juice, medicine, detergents, and shampoos and conditioners. The other plastics (#3 - #7) generally aren't recycled, except for bags (see sidebar below), so avoid them when possible.

For more recycling information, contact Golden Valley Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom at 763-593-8046.

## it's in the bag Disposing of #4 PLASTIC

*It's in the Bag* is a locally based plastic bag recycling program created by Supervalu, Inc with non-profits Merrick, Inc and Minnesota Waste Wise, and supported by the American Plastics Council, Byerly's, Cub Foods, GreenGuardian.com, Hennepin County, Kowalski's, Lunds, the Minnesota Grocer's Education Foundation, Pioneer Press, Star Tribune, and Target Corporation. The program accepts grocery bags, plastic retail bags with handles removed, plastic newspaper bags, and plastic dry cleaning bags but NOT sandwich or bread bags, other plastic food packaging, bubble wrap, or stretch wrap.

## COLLECTION SITES

Collection bins can be found at all Twin Cities Byerly's, Cub Foods, Lunds, and Kowalski's Markets, as well as Hennepin County Recycling Centers in Bloomington and Brooklyn Park. Bags should be clean and dry with all receipts removed. For more information, go to [www.itsinthebagmn.org](http://www.itsinthebagmn.org).



# Water Knowledge Is Key To Maintaining Quality

One goal of Golden Valley's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), adopted in 2003, is to educate residents about their impact on water quality and use. Since Minnesota is the land of 12,000+ lakes and numerous rivers, thinking of water as abundant, even unending, is not a big leap, but it's also not a good plan. According to the United States Geological Service (USGS), only 0.3% of all the water in the earth's water cycle is suitable and available for our use. Understanding the water cycle is vital to understanding our impact on water quality.



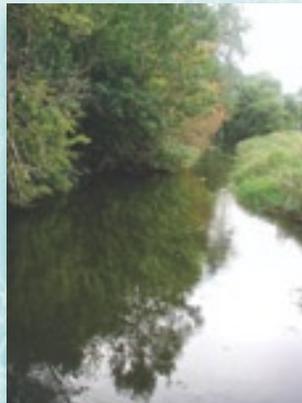
## THE WATER CYCLE

As you may know, the earth has a closed water cycle, which means there's no such thing as new water. The water on the earth now is the same water that has been here since the beginning. In

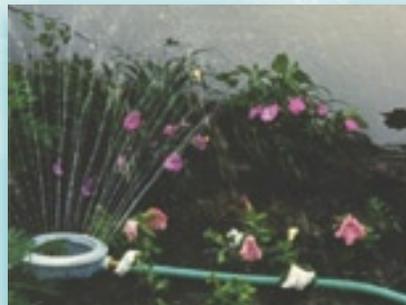
other words, you could be drinking water once consumed by a Tyrannosaurus or a Dodo bird. Water continually moves through the cycle of transpiration, condensation, precipitation, evaporation. It falls from the sky, accumulates in lakes, rivers, and streams, and seeps through the earth to become, for a time, groundwater.

## A CLOSER LOOK AT GROUNDWATER

Ground water (water that seeps down through the land until it reaches rock saturated by water) is an unseen part of the water cycle. The bedrock below the earth's surface consists of varying types of rock, including limestone, sandstone, and granite. Small to massive amounts of water accumulate in the empty spaces in the bedrock. Below the bedrock is a denser material, like granite or hard-to-penetrate clay, that stops the water's downward descent and forces it to move horizontally, generally toward exposed surface water, such as a lake, river, or stream.



Though water is filtered through the earth before it accumulates as groundwater, not all pollutants are trapped. In fact, in areas where the earth is very porous, not much filtration occurs at all. Further, groundwater and surface water (streams, rivers, lakes, etc) often mingle in areas where the earth is porous. For example, if you see a lake, river, or creek with sand along its shores, chances are there's an exchange occurring between the



surface and groundwater. Depending how quickly it moves, groundwater can detain pollutants for long periods.

## POLLUTION PERMEATES THE WATER CYCLE

Pollution emitted into the air enters water when it is in the atmosphere. On or in the ground, the water is affected by surface pollution such as pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, and the numerous other chemicals we use everyday. This is apparent in our surface water, but in a closed water cycle, we can see how pollutants get into groundwater.

Watch CityNews and the City web site ([www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us)) for more information on water, including surface and ground water programs. If you have questions about Golden Valley's SWPPP, contact Environmental Coordinator Al Lundstrom at 763-593-8046 or go to [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/water.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/environment/water.htm).

# GOLDEN RIDGE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

In December, the Golden Valley Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) approved an agreement with Bullseye Development to build 16 units of housing (eight market rate and eight Habitat for Humanity homes) on the former Sheriff's Pistol Range Site in northwest Golden Valley, now called Golden Ridge Planned Unit Development (PUD). This agreement is contingent on reaching a final agreement with Hennepin County to purchase the site.

In order to proceed, the project must go through the City's planning process. The preliminary schedule calls for the Planning Commission to consider a PUD for the project, which involves reviewing the layout for streets, buildings, trails, etc. That meeting is set for February 9. The Planning Commission will then make a recommendation on the PUD to the City Council, which will have its own public hearing. That meeting is tentatively set for March 2. If the City Council approves the preliminary plan for the project, it will consider the general plan for the project at a meeting sometime in April.

If the City Council approves the project, the HRA would buy the property at the end of April and sell it to the developer.

The City could start making public improvements to the property in May, and construction of the homes could begin later in the summer.

For more information, go to [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/development.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/community/development.htm), or call Assistant HRA Director Jeanne Andre at 763-593-8014.



CONCEPT FOR PUD

# Kick Start The Right Side of Your Brain And Launch Golden Valley Into the Future



By now you've probably heard about *Envision Golden Valley*. So far, hundreds of people who live, work, and play in the city have stepped forward to brainstorm ideas to help define Golden Valley's future. But, more ideas are needed.

Imagine what you'd like to see in Golden Valley in the future. While *Envision Golden Valley* is focusing on the areas of transportation, recreation, environment, government, community involvement, and development, let's take a look at what life may be like in 20 years and see if it doesn't get your creative rockets going.

Remember, nothing's out of bounds in the brainstorming phase.

## JUMP START YOUR CREATIVE ENGINE

Brainstorming is an idea gathering process. The goal is to find new solutions, see things from a new perspective. Create new things, have original thoughts, and (this is very important) have fun. The six keys to creativity and brainstorming, as identified in a study of Factors Influencing Creativity at [www.geocities.com/creativefactor/](http://www.geocities.com/creativefactor/), include:

- Self-discipline and Persistence (Don't give up!)
- Invention (Recognize a need, then meet it.)
- Originality (Go where no one has gone before.)
- Humor and Madness (Have a little fun.)
- Flexibility (Go with the flow.)
- Tolerance of Ambiguity (Don't fear the unknown.)

Remember, there are no bad ideas. Don't censor yourself before you even begin, saying "Oh, that won't work" or "No one will like that idea."

To tap into your creative side, it's vital to be relaxed. Many people find walking, visiting a friend, or taking a bath or nap helpful. Once you are relaxed, ask your subconscious to look at a situation. If you are observant and open, there's a good chance an idea will pop up. As experience tells us, once one idea comes, others tend to build off it. Before you know it, you'll be flowing with ideas.

1886 — Golden Valley is incorporated as a village.

1909 — Theodore Wirth Park (Glenwood Park) is expanded into Golden Valley.

1926 — First Annual Community Picnic starts Golden Valley tradition that lasts more than 25 years.

1939 — Hwy 100 opens with modern cloverleaf intersections and lilacs purchased by the Garden Club.

1954 — Sanitary sewer expansion from Minneapolis allows the development of the General Mills campus.

1967 — Citizens approve bond issue to purchase Brookview Park and Golf Course.

1978-81 — Redevelopment districts created at Winnetka & Golden Valley Rd, Hwy 55 & France Ave N, and Hwy 12 & Turner's Crossroad.

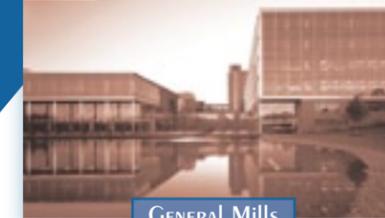
2003 — Expanded General Mills campus opens to accommodate 1,700 more employees.

2010 — ?

2020 — ?

## Looking INTO THE UNKNOWN

Everyone's vision of the future is unique. Some see robots and flying cars; others imagine underground buildings and domed cities.



GENERAL MILLS

While no one knows for sure what the future will bring, many are making educated predictions. One is that there will be more people. The US Census Bureau estimates about 700,000 more people in Minnesota by 2025.

Another prediction is that computers will become even more important in our daily lives with a few advancements. Jack Dunietz, at TNTY Futures, projects that "Machines and humans will work side-by-side, speaking to one another." Don Witmer, also at TNTY, asserts we will have computer monitors throughout our houses, and "the Internet [will become] the next home utility, as commonplace as water, gas and electricity."

## A DAY IN THE FUTURE?

Imagine being woken by the computer screen in your bedroom. While dressing, you tell your computer what needs to

happen. Through hard drives in all your appliances, the computer will tell the coffee maker to start, instruct the dishwasher to run when it's full, have the washing machine make adjustments in temperature and detergent for the fabrics in it, and record your favorite television shows for your viewing convenience.

Everything in your home will be coordinated by this technology, including family schedules. Everyone's PDAs will communicate and coordinate schedules.

If you're not one of the many people who telecommute, you'll travel to work (knowing your central computer will not water the drought-resistant silt grass lawn) by light rail, a Skyweb (three-person cars on electric tracks), or in a Pod Car. Presented by Toyota in 2001, this motorized mood ring will determine your emotions while you travel and match with music and interior lighting.

In your car, there's a good chance you're going to be targeted by billboards. Smart Sign Media, of Sacramento, CA, has developed responsive signs that listen to your car radio as you pass and will change advertising displays to match the demographic of your favorite station.

Unless it's very old, the building you work in will be made entirely of recycled materials. Much like home, computers and microphones will be everywhere inside. You may eat the lunch your computer ordered for you on the rooftop lawn, which helps control the building's temperature and filters pollution. After work, don't worry about remembering all the clients, customers, and meetings. You'll be able to download all your conversations later and review them chronologically or by keyword.

## GROUND ZERO

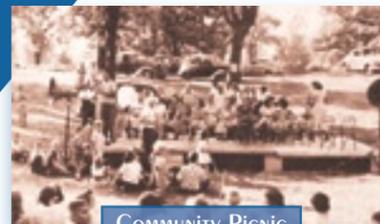
Perhaps this glimpse of a possible future day will get you excited to talk about possibilities for the focus areas of *Envision Golden Valley*. What do you see in the future? Do you imagine being more involved with your community? What do you think government should look like in 20 years? Or recreation? Do you imagine heading to a climbing wall or an indoor mountain bike range, or perhaps an international cultural center?

Such questions bring us full circle. With all the technological advancements, we still need to ask ourselves what is important in our future. Where do you want to spend your time and our collective resources? How do you see your community in 20 years?

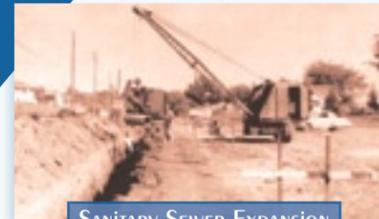
## TAKE OFF

One final note. *Envision* is a starting point, a brainstorming session (see Creativity article at left) for future planning. Don't worry whether ideas are pie in the sky; think big and with vision. Later, others will consider what may or may not work. As T.S. Elliot once said, "Only those who

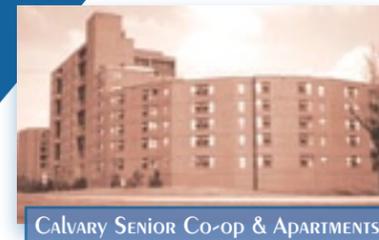
will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go."



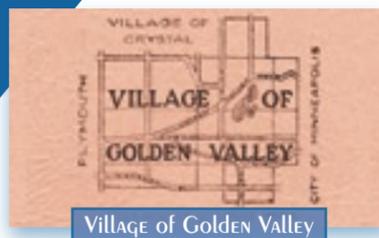
COMMUNITY PICNIC



SANITARY SEWER EXPANSION



CALVARY SENIOR CO-OP & APARTMENTS



VILLAGE OF GOLDEN VALLEY

## BROOKVIEW FACE LIFT NEARS COMPLETION

This spring and summer, construction crews will put the finishing touches on Brookview Park renovations, which are being done in conjunction with the City's 2003-2004 Pavement Management Program (see story at right). Last summer, crews began rehabilitating the streets near Brookview Park and Brookview Golf Course, and Brookview Park was closed August 4, 2003, to enable full-scale construction.

When Brookview Park reopens this summer, it will feature improvements to parking, trails, shelters, and ponding and drainage. The Park and Recreation Department is planning a June 7 "Welcome Back to Brookview Celebration and Concert." Watch future newsletters for more information.

### SAFETY FIRST

During construction season, the number one concern for the City of Golden Valley and its contractors is the safety of workers and the public. However, we cannot succeed in this goal without your help and cooperation. Even the safest work area can be dangerous.

Please, do all you can to keep yourself and your children away from Brookview Park until construction work is completed. The safest route is to stay out of the park at all times, including evenings and weekends when construction crews are not present.

Although Brookview Golf Course and Community Center remain open, with access provided via Winnetka Ave and the I-394 north frontage road, Brookview park is completely closed to the public during construction. For more information, contact Golden Valley Public Works at 763-593-8030.

# PMP To Conclude Work In Brookview Area

For the 2004 street construction season, Golden Valley's Pavement Management Program (PMP) will conclude the work begun last spring in the vicinity of Laurel Ave and Winnetka Ave. The two-year Brookview Neighborhood Project includes streets in the area bounded by I-394 on the south, Harold Ave on the north, Jersey Ave on the east, and General Mills Blvd on the west. It also includes the neighborhood located south of Hwy 55 and west of General Mills Blvd as well as the neighborhood south of I-394 and west of Winnetka Ave S, where work was completed in 2003. Construction will continue through summer 2004.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This \$18 million project includes street and parking lot reconstruction, sidewalk and trail reconstruction, landscaping, storm sewer installation, storm water pond construction and enhancements (see photo below), limited water main replacement, and limited repair and replacement of sanitary sewer.

To calm traffic on Winnetka Ave, medians will be installed on Winnetka north of Western Ave along with roadway narrowing and landscaping on Winnetka. Additional traffic calming measures will be made on Laurel and Western Avenues.

For pedestrian safety, a sidewalk will be constructed on the east side of Winnetka from I-394 to Western Ave. From there the walkway will shift into Brookview Park and connect with the pedestrian bridge over Hwy 55. The Brookview Park trail will be altered to minimize the recurrent flooding. Trails on Western Ave will be reconstructed, including a new walk between Jersey and Winnetka, part of which was completed in 2003. A trail was also built on Brookview Parkway between Western and Harold Ave. To complete the pedestrian system, new sidewalks will be built on the north side of Laurel between Pennsylvania and Winnetka Avenues and on segments of the south side of Laurel.

Starting in mid-February, Winnetka Ave will be closed to all traffic between Hwy 55 and I-394. While the project is under way, residents and businesses in project areas will receive regular Construction Update newsletters from the City with current scheduling information and useful tips for coping with construction.

### PROJECT BACKGROUND

Traffic in the Brookview Park area has been of concern to the City and area residents since the completion of I-394. In December 1999, the City Council appointed an advisory committee of area homeowners and business representatives to study the situation and make recommendations. Six months later, the committee's reported goal was "renewing a strong sense of community," which started with "improving traffic conditions and pedestrian safety in the Laurel-Winnetka corridor."

Many of the advisory committee's recommendations were incorporated into the final project plans. To receive further public feedback after the proposed plans were developed, the City held a series of open houses in 2002 and a public hearing in January 2003.

For more information or if you have questions, go to [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/streets/pmp.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/streets/pmp.htm) or contact City Engineer Jeff Oliver at 763-593-8030 or [joliver@ci.golden-valley.mn.us](mailto:joliver@ci.golden-valley.mn.us).



INFORMATIONAL signs like this will be placed near BROOKVIEW AND OTHER CITY PARK PONDS.

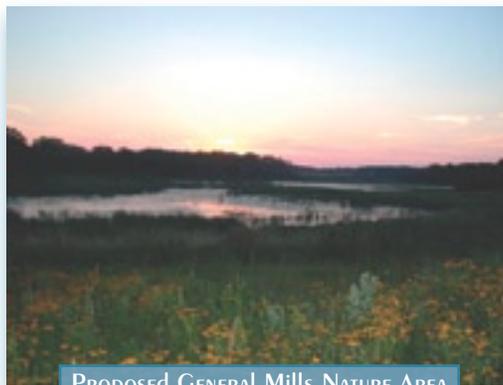
# City To Improve Hwy 55/ Boone Ave Intersection

This spring, the City of Golden Valley will begin work on the second of two public improvement projects required to address additional traffic resulting from the recent expansion at the General Mills headquarters campus (at General Mills Blvd between I-394 and Betty Crocker Dr). Besides accommodating up to 1,700 additional employees who will be based out of the new facility, this project will also greatly reduce flooding on Boone Ave north of Hwy 55.

The first project, installation of traffic signals on General Mills Blvd at Betty Crocker Dr and at the north and south I-394 ramp termini, was completed last summer. This year's project involves adding capacity at the Hwy 55/Boone Ave N/General Mills Blvd intersection. An additional westbound left turn lane will be added on Hwy 55, along with an additional southbound through lane on Boone Ave N/General Mills Blvd. The intersection grade will be reconfigured to eliminate the current steep slopes, overhead utilities will be relocated underground, flooding issues in the area will be improved, and pedestrian facilities will be enhanced.

To address the flooding issues, the City partnered with General Mills in a study that identified 26 acres of flood storage that could be created on General Mills property north of Betty Crocker Dr. General Mills has indicated it would grant the City a permanent conservation easement on that property. The City and General Mills completed an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the expansion that reviewed the environmental effects of the project. It was reviewed at a January 20, 2004 public hearing, and the City Council authorized staff to proceed with final plan preparation.

If you have questions about the Hwy 55/Boone Ave intersection project, please contact Public Works Project Coordinator Ron Nims at 763-593-8032. 



PROPOSED GENERAL MILLS NATURE AREA

## BATTERY CARE AND RECYCLING

A depleted battery that is ready to be discarded may still contain a residual charge. Certain precautions must be taken to prevent batteries from short-circuiting and potentially causing a fire. Before bringing batteries to a collection location, place non-conductive electrical tape over the battery terminals, or place each battery into an individual plastic bag to prevent contact between terminals or other metal surfaces during storage and transport.



### 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
  - South Hennepin Recycling & Problem Waste Drop-Off Center, 1400 West 96th St, Bloomington

## SENIOR STUFF

Golden Valley Seniors Program  
Brookview Community Center  
200 Brookview Parkway  
Golden Valley, MN 55426  
763-512-2339  
8 am - 5 pm,  
Monday - Friday

**Wellness & You**—1:30 pm, Dover Hill Midrise. February 18: "Sleep & Sleep Disturbances," March 4: "Humor is the Best Medicine."

**Tax Aide Program**—February 19, March 4 & 18, April 1, 11 am, Brookview.

**Nutrition & You**—February 10, 10:30 am, Brookview.

**Health Insurance Help**—February 10, 9 - 11 am, Brookview.

**Celebrate Senior Dining**—February 10, noon, Calvary Church.

**Defensive Driving Courses**—Four-hour refresher at Brookview: February 12, 9 am - 1 pm. Eight-hour course at Brookview: March 2 & 9, 6 pm - 10 pm.

**Blood Pressure Screenings**—February 25, 11 am - noon, Brookview.

**Continental Breakfast**—"Protect Yourself - Consumer Scams," February 25, 9:30 am, Brookview.

**Special Events (register early)**—"Heart of My Heart" Supper, February 23, 6:30 pm; Antique Presentation, March 5, 1 pm; Leapin' Leprechauns Lunch, March 8, 12:30 pm. All at Brookview.

**Upcoming Trips (register early)**—February 17: Mill City Museum; March 20: Sheldon Theater, Red Wing; April 13: Twin Cities Tour.

**Five Cities Transportation Program** offers rides to seniors for shopping, social activities, and senior program events. For a schedule, see the Seniors newsletter or go to [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/parks/transportshed.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/parks/transportshed.htm). To reserve a ride, call the Five Cities office at 763-537-0229 weekdays between 8 am - 3 pm.

Call the Golden Valley Seniors Office to receive the Seniors Newsletter and to register in advance for events, educational seminars, classes, and trips.

## PLANNING COMMISSION ADVISES COUNCIL

The City of Golden Valley has nine Advisory Boards and Commissions, staffed entirely by volunteer citizen appointees, which recommend policy to the City Council and advise the Council on a variety of diverse issues. The Planning Commission's seven members review the City's zoning code and look for ways to better serve the residents of Golden Valley.

"Basically, we are the keepers of the zoning code," says Planning Commission Chairperson Paula Pentel. "We serve as the research body for changes made to the code."

The Planning Commission officially meets twice a month to advise, recommend, and assist the Council in matters relating to planning and growth of the City, but much more happens in between.

"Often we [the Planning Commission] break into subcommittees to study specific issues and then report back to the Commission with the findings," adds Pentel.

For example, Pentel says the Commission has been talking about changes to the residential zoning code (see article at right) for years. "Residents who live in homes built before the code was in effect were constantly coming before the Board of Zoning Appeals, and we realized it was time to bring the code into alignment with what was happening in the City."

Currently the Planning Commission has one opening, a seat vacated by newly elected City Council Member Bob Shaffer. Two more seats will open in late spring. Any Golden Valley resident may apply for a position on a City Board or Commission. Pentel recommends that interested residents who have not previously served on a Board or Commission watch a few Planning Commission meetings to get a feel for the work.

For more information or an application, call Judy Nally at 763-593-3991 or go to [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/boards.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/citygovernment/boards.htm).

# City Considers Updates To Zoning Code

After spending about two years studying the Residential District section of Golden Valley's Zoning Code (11.21), the City's Planning Commission has recommended a number of major changes that will update the code and reduce the number of complaints the City receives regarding zoning issues. The City Council will consider the proposed changes at a 7 pm public hearing February 17 at Golden Valley City Hall.

The City Council met with the Planning Commission in November 2003 to clarify issues about the Residential Zoning Code, which had not been updated since the early 1980s and still referred to "country estates and one-family dwellings" as the only permitted uses. The proposed changes rename this section of the code from "Residential District" to "Single-Family Zoning District." Highlights include changes to requirements for buildable lots, setbacks, accessory buildings, home occupations and renting your home, and storage of recreational vehicles. Major changes are summarized below.

**SETBACKS** The setback for principal structures remains at 35 feet from any front property line along a street right-of-way; however, open front porches with no screens may be built to within 30 feet of the front property line. The side setback is 12.5 feet for lots between 65 and 100 feet wide and 15 feet for lots greater than 100 feet wide. Decks higher than eight inches from ground level must meet the same setbacks as principal structures. Fences are not considered structures and are not required to meet setbacks (Subdivision 10).

**ACCESSORY STRUCTURES** Property owners planning to build accessory structures that do not require building permits (storage sheds, decks less than 30 inches high, etc) must obtain a zoning permit to assure the proposed structure meets setback requirements. Accessory structures must be smaller than the principal structure, and each property is limited to a total of 1,000 square feet of accessory structure space, including attached garages but excluding swimming pools. You do not need a zoning permit to store fish houses, but they must meet setback requirements for accessory buildings (Subdivision 11).

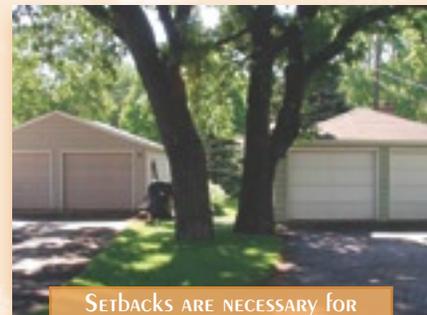
**PRE-1982 STRUCTURES** For all existing structures built before January 1, 1982, the setback for principal structures is 25 feet from the front property line, three feet from the side property line, and 10 feet from the rear property line. Pre-1982 accessory structures must be set back three feet from the side or rear property lines. All additions to pre-1982 structures must meet current setback requirements. Property owners may be required to move accessory structures located in a public easement area (Subdivision 12).

**TEMPORARY OUTDOOR STORAGE** Temporary outdoor storage units, such as PODS or storage kits (fabric storage shelters or canopies) must be located on a hard surface completely on private property and may not stay on the property for more than seven days. (Subdivision 13).

**STORAGE OF RECREATIONAL VEHICLES** Only one recreational vehicle (camper, boat, snowmobile, ATV, trailer, etc) may be stored or parked in the front yard and must be parked on a hard surface. Vehicles more than 25 feet long (including trailer) may not be stored in the front yard (Subdivision 14). Vehicles parked in a front yard must be on a paved driveway or other paved surface (Subdivision 15).

**HOME OCCUPATIONS** Only one outside employee is allowed on the premises at which a home occupation is located. (Subdivision 17).

**QUESTIONS** Complete text for the City's Single-Family Zoning District, including all proposed changes, is available at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/whatsnew/news1.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/whatsnew/news1.htm) or at City Hall. If you have questions, contact Planning Director Mark Grimes at 763-593-8097.



SETBACKS ARE NECESSARY FOR  
SAFETY AND NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS

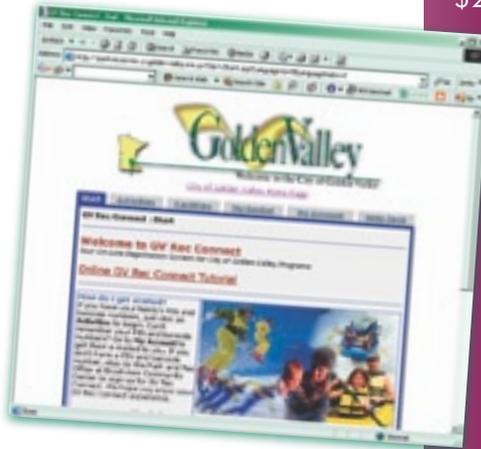
# Register for Park Programs Online With **GV RecConnect**

GV Rec Connect, the Golden Valley Park and Recreation Department's online registration system, provides residents with fast, efficient access to the City's extensive array of park and recreation programs. Just log on to the City web site at [www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us), go to "Parks, Recreation, & Leisure," click "Park & Recreation Programs" (bookmark this page for future use), then follow the instructions to start the online registration process.

Twice a year Golden Valley publishes an Activities brochure that lists all City recreational programs offered for that season. Seasonal activities are also listed on the City web site under "Park and Recreation Programs." The fastest way to register is to use the code numbers listed with each activity. Browse the selections, write down the code numbers, gather credit card information (Mastercard or VISA only) and your family ID and PIN numbers, then enter GV Rec Connect to register. GV Rec Connect accepts registrations up to the first day of the activity or until it is full. The few activities not available for online registration are noted on the web site.

For security purposes and to expedite online registration, each family that has registered for a Golden Valley activity in the last two years has been issued ID and PIN numbers. If you don't have these numbers, call the Park and Recreation Department at 763-512-2345.

For more information about Park and Recreation programs or online registration, call the Golden Valley Park and Recreation Department at 763-512-2345. 



## PARK & REC UPDATE

### Adult Activities

**Intermediate Watercolor**—Wednesdays, February 11 - March 17, 6 - 8 pm, Brookview, \$35

**Hypnosis for Natural Weight Loss**—February 11, 7 - 8:30 pm, Brookview, \$20

**Valentines Day Spa**—February 15, 2 - 4 pm, Brookview, \$29

**Yoga & Pilates**—Thursdays, February 19 - March 25, 6:45 - 7:45 pm, Brookview, \$48

**Yoga & Pilates with Weights**—Thursdays, February 19 - March 25, 5:30 - 6:40 pm, Brookview, \$48

**Scrapbooking**—February 24, 6:30 - 9:30 pm, Brookview, \$15

### Youth Activities

**Decoupage (ages 6-12)**—February 7, 9 - 10 am, Brookview, \$12

**Robot on the Roll (ages 7 & up)**—February 24, 7 - 8 pm, Brookview, \$10

**Kids Club (ages 3-5)**—9:30 - 11 am, Mondays & Wednesdays, February 23 - April 7, and Tuesdays & Thursdays, February 17 - April 1, Brookview, \$34/ session

**Four Ways To Register**—in person or by mail (address below), by fax (763-512-2344), or online at GV RecConnect ([www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/parks/prprograms.htm](http://www.ci.golden-valley.mn.us/parks/prprograms.htm)).

**Brookview Community Center**  
200 Brookview Parkway  
Golden Valley, MN 55426  
763-512-2345

Monday - Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm

Watch your mail in early March for the Spring & Summer Activities brochure.

# help recognize **CARING YOUTH**

Area youth who contribute to their communities by helping others will be honored March 16 at the ninth annual *Caring Youth Recognition*. The event, which will be held at Golden Valley City Hall, is a collaborative effort between the Cities of Golden Valley, Hopkins, and Minnetonka, Hopkins School District 270, and Minnetonka School District 276.

*Caring Youth* recognizes youth in grades seven through 12 who show an ongoing awareness of others through volunteer or other activities. Nominees must meet at least one of the following criteria: live in Golden Valley, Hopkins, or Minnetonka; attend Hopkins or Minnetonka public schools, and do volunteer work (unpaid and not as a requirement for a class or co-curricular program) in Golden Valley, Hopkins, or Minnetonka. Students can only be nominated by the organization they are serving.

In early January 2004, the sponsors began soliciting *Caring Youth Recognition* nominations from schools, the faith community, civic and service organizations, and the community at large.

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 Communications Coordinator Cheryl Weiler (763-593-8004) before February 15.



# Free Home Remodeling Fair Is February 22

A free Home Remodeling Fair featuring 76 contractor exhibits, 12 seminars, and an "Ask the Pro" booth will be held Sunday, February 22, 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 free shuttle

service is available from the parking lot at Oak Ridge Country Club.

Exhibitors include remodeling contractors, architects, landscapers, electricians, tool and dumpster rental services, 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 left). Architects, landscape designers, and interior decorators 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.



**Sunday, February 22**  
10:30 AM - 3:30 PM  
EISENHOWER COMMUNITY CENTER  
1001 Highway 7, Hopkins

## ONE-HOUR SEMINARS

**11 am**—Decks and Porches, Window Replacement, Kitchen and Bath Remodeling Trends, Tree and Lawn Care, The Feng Shui Approach to Kitchen Remodeling

**12:15 pm**—Refinishing Wood Floors (Part 1), Finishing the Lower Level, Cost-Saving Architectural Design, Cost-Effective Kitchen and Bath Remodeling

**1:30 pm**—Refinishing Wood Floors (Part 2), Cost-Effective Kitchen and Bath Remodeling, Landscape Design, Preventing Cold Weather Problems, Interior and Exterior Painting

## DEMONSTRATIONS

**11 am, 12:30 and 2 pm**—"Closet Organizing," with Susie Orr

**11 am, 12:30 and 2 pm**—"Awesome Arranging," with Heidi Nessa of the Design Doctors

**11:30 am, 1 and 2:30 pm**—"Taking the Fear Out of Faux Finishing," with Patty Ewalt

This is the 12th 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 2nd Story Construction, Boyer Building, Center for Energy and Environment, Hage Concrete Works/Highland Electric, John Orfield Construction, Plumblin Builders, McFarland Builders, Stonepocket Landscaping, Temo Sunrooms, The Replacement Window Company, and Windows America.

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



763-593-8000

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

MIKE FREIBERG | SCOTT D. GRAYSON | BOB SHAFFER | BLAIR TREMERE  
MAYOR | LINDA R. LOOMIS

MAYOR/COUNCIL MSG LINE | 763-593-8001

CITY MANAGER | THOMAS BURT

EDITOR | CHERYL WEILER

ASSISTANT EDITOR | TINA PERPICH

GRAPHIC DESIGNER | SIRI KHALSA



7800 Golden Valley Road  
Golden Valley, MN 55427

Printed on 20% post-consumer recycled paper.  
Available on audio tape.

**ECRWSS**  
**Postal Customer**

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 1659  
Mpls, MN

**Notice:** To retain cost-effective rates, new postal regulations require us to mail to complete carrier routes, even if they are beyond city borders. We apologize to non-Golden Valley residents who get this newsletter unsolicited.